

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Celtics' Walker is  
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Volume 2, No.321 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2005

# U.S. forces brace for strikes in Afghanistan

Officials expect Taliban to go on offensive after winter weather lifts Page 4

## Warrior keeps his promise

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Capt. Jeff Paine, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company for 1-4 Cavalry, greets his first sergeant, Brent Jurgensen, during welcome ceremonies Friday at Conn Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany. Jurgensen — who lost a leg in a near-fatal RPG attack in Iraq last month that led to a medically-induced coma — flew from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington to Schweinfurt to greet his returning soldiers last week.

PHOTO BY KRISTEN  
CHANDLER TOTH  
Courtesy of the  
U.S. Army  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION  
BY MORGAN LOOSLI  
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**STARS AND STRIPES**  
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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Koko caretakers' lawsuit:** A third woman has filed a lawsuit claiming a caretaker for Koko, the world-famous sign-language-speaking gorilla, pressured her to expose her breasts as a way to bond with the animal. Iris Rivera, 39, sued the Gorilla Foundation this week in San Mateo County Superior Court in Woodside, Calif., saying the foundation's president, Francine Patterson, repeatedly told her to expose her breasts.

**Blake murder trial:** The prosecution and defense both rested their cases in the Robert Blake murder trial, with the prosecution calling a writer for a tabloid newspaper as its last rebuttal witness. "All sides have rested and the case is now concluded," Judge Darlene Schempp told the Los Angeles jury Friday. Closing arguments were scheduled for Wednesday.

**Jackson abuse trial:** A judge has ruled that Michael Jackson's lawyers can present evidence at his child molestation trial that his accuser's mother has made abuse charges in the past.

The allegations relate to the credibility of the accuser's story. The defense is expected to portray them as after Jackson's money.

Jackson, 46, is accused of molesting a 13-year-old at his Neverland ranch in Santa Barbara County, playing the boy with alcohol and conspiring to hold him and his family captive.

**Los Alamos security:** Employees who quit their jobs at Los Alamos National Laboratory regularly failed to turn in security badges and complete other measures to ensure they no longer had access to classified information or nuclear material, according to a report released Friday.

The inspector general of the U.S. Department of Energy, which oversees the northern New Mexico nuclear weapons lab, began investigating last year after concerns that computer disks and other lab property containing secret information might have been going home with departing employees. Ten percent of the 1,668 employees who left Jan. 1, 2002, and Feb. 25, 2004, did not turn in their badges, according to the report. Forty-four of those had badges that allowed access to secret information and nuclear material, and some of the badges allowed access to other DOE sites, the report said.

**Public prayer:** Congress and legislatures can open their sessions with prayers, but a federal judge ruled Friday that school boards do not have the same leeway.

Ruling in a lawsuit brought by a parent against a southeastern Louisiana school system, Judge Ginger Bergman said school-sponsored prayers in classes or at other school functions have long been prohibited as a violation of First Amendment guarantees against government-established religion.

School boards are integral parts of school systems, she said.

Chris Moody, a lawyer for the school board, said he believes an appeal is likely. An appeal would go to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which Moody noted has allowed prayer at graduation ceremonies.

**CBS Guard story:** A producer involved in CBS's discredited report on President Bush's National Guard service resigned Friday, nearly two months after an independent report criticized the handling of the story.

Mary Murphy, another producer and an executive were asked by CBS to leave because of the "60 Minutes Wednesday" report, but she was the first to do so. A third



**Calif. weather:** Cold and wet cows are mired up to their udders in mud and standing water due to the rain that has delayed the region in Chico, Calif. Rain, hail and lightning saturated Southern California on Friday, and authorities warned of avalanche danger on a towering mountain. The unusually heavy rains — 33.87 inches in Los Angeles so far this season — have sent hillsides slumping, damaging or destroying many homes and roads.

producer, Mary Mapes, was fired.

**Marcos staff:** The U.S. government agreed Friday not to deport Teresita Hupunda, the ex-Marina who has been fighting to stay in the U.S. since arriving in 1986 with the deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos.

Hupunda, 56, a Wal-Mart cashier in Rancho Cordova, Calif., was part of the presidential group of about 100 government officials, their families, housekeepers and nannies who fled the Philippines for the United States after Marcos was deposed in the "People Power Revolution."

"I am thrilled, I'm overwhelmed," Hupunda said in Tagalog during a telephone interview. "I suffered waiting all this time and I still can't believe it."

**Zeta-Jones stalker:** A woman pleaded no contest Friday to stalking and threatening actress Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Dawnette Knight, 33, entered the plea to one felony count of stalking and three felony counts of making criminal threats. She could face up to five years in prison.

Knight was accused of sending threatening and violent letters to acquaintances of the actress, including her agent and her husband, actor Michael Douglas.

**Ill. capital punishments:** A group of lawmakers pushing for an end to Illinois' moratorium on executions want to replace the "guilt beyond a reasonable doubt" standard to "guilt beyond any doubt" for the penalty phase of capital cases, saying that will minimize the risk of the wrong person being put to death.

The proposal Friday drew criticism from supporters and opponents of the death penalty, but the legislators said it could help sort the sort of wrongful convictions that led then-Gov. George Ryan to halt all executions in 2000.

**Peterson motion:** Lawyers for convicted killer Scott Peterson filed a motion Friday requesting a new trial.

The 122-page request was immediately sealed. Judge Alfred Delucchi said the document will not be made public until March 9, after the prosecution files its response.

Delucchi also set a March 16 sentencing date for Peterson, who was convicted in November for murdering his pregnant wife, Laci. A jury recommended death, but the judge must formally impose the sentence.

**Anti-terror statute:** The leader of a Ku Klux Klan splinter group received a 12-year prison sentence Friday in the nation's first

federal conviction under a new anti-terror statute.

David Wayne Hull, 42, of Amwell Township, Washington County, taught another man how to use a pipe bomb at a November 2002 white supremacist gathering on Hull's property. He also gave bomb parts to the other man, a government informant who posed as a violent anti-abortion activist.

### Military

**Desertion case:** An Army mechanic who refused to deploy to Iraq for a second tour of duty will be court-martialed on desertion charges, officials said Friday.

Sgt. Kevin Benderman, 40, missed his unit's deployment flight Jan. 7 after giving his commanders notice 10 days earlier that he planned to seek a discharge as a conscientious objector. Benderman said he had become opposed to war after serving in the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Port Stewart commanders contend Benderman had an obligation to deploy with his unit, the 3rd Forward Support Battalion of the 3rd Infantry Division, while the Army processed his objector application.

Benderman will be tried by a general court-martial, the most serious form of court-martial, on charges of desertion and missing movement. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison, reduction in rank to private and a dishonorable discharge.

### World

**N. Korea nuke talks:** The United States, Japan and South Korea urged North Korea on Saturday to return to nuclear disarmament talks without delay, indicating they would not give the communist state any rewards before negotiations resume.

The three allies also urged China — North Korea's last remaining major ally, a trading partner and key supplier of energy — to play a bigger role in persuading the North that returning to the talks is in its interest.

### War on terrorism

**Foreign troops in Iraq:** Albania said Friday it will add 50 troops to its army unit in Iraq. The number of soldiers will grow from 71 to 121 when the current contingent is replaced in April, government spokesman Aldrin Delipi said.

"The Albanian government expressed its full will to continue Albania's direct contribution in the fight against terrorism and strengthening of democracy in postwar Iraq and elsewhere," Delipi said.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# Pipeline blown up in Dhibis

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An oil pipeline in northern Iraq was ablaze Saturday after saboteurs blew it up in the latest attack against the country's vital petroleum industry. In the capital, a roadside bomb killed two people, officials and witnesses said.

The U.S. military also said a soldier died during a sweep for insurgents west of Baghdad.

The violence came one day after the government announced the arrest of a man it described as a key figure in the country's most feared terrorist group, and a top official said the noose was tightening around the group's leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

The pipeline connecting oil fields in Dhibis with the northern city of Kirkuk about 20 miles away was blown up late Friday, an official of the state-run North Oil Co. said on condition of anonymity. He said repairs would take at least four days.

Insurgents regularly target Iraq's oil infrastructure, cutting exports and denying the country funds that are badly needed for reconstruction.

In Baghdad, insurgents detonated a roadside bomb in the west of the city, killing two civilians. Their slumped bodies could be seen in a small white car, its windshield smashed in the blast.

It was not clear whom the attack targeted. U.S. Lt. Col. Clifford Kent said an American tank was nearby at the time of the blast, but it was not damaged.

One Iraqi said he was on his way to work when the bomb detonated.

"We just arrived near those tanks (when) the blast occurred. And as you see, blood soaked us for doing nothing," Mohammed al-Duleimi said.

To the south, a suicide car bomber killed an Iraqi National Guard soldier and wounded



An unidentified man sifts through the shattered window of a shot-up car after clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents in central Ramadi, an insurgent stronghold 70 miles west of Baghdad, on Saturday. A U.S. operation to sweep out insurgents in Ramadi and other Euphrates River cities began a week ago.

seven people near Musayyib, police Capt. Muthana Khalid said. Musayyib is about 50 miles southwest of Baghdad.

Earlier, a car bomb exploded near a convoy of Iraqi National Guardsmen in Iskandariyah, which also is south of Baghdad, witnesses said. No casualties were reported.

The U.S. command on Saturday announced the death of a day earlier of a U.S. soldier west of the capital in Anbar province, where the military launched a massive sweep last week to root out insurgents.

The military operation included vehicles equipped with loudspeakers, which drove through city streets offering \$25 million for information leading to the arrest of al-Zarqawi — believed to be one of the masterminds behind a wave of car bombings, kidnappings, and beheadings across Iraq.

"We are very close to al-Zarqawi, and I believe that there are few weeks separating us from him," Iraq's interim national

security adviser, Mouwafak al-Rubaie said.

He described the latest alleged terrorist capture as another blow to al-Zarqawi's organization, known as al-Qaida in Iraq. The group is still reeling from previous arrests and the killing of Omar Hadid, another of his senior aides, in November's assault on Fallujah.

Iraqi security services arrested Talib Mikhlif Arsan Walman al-Dulaymi, also known as Abu Qutaybah, on Sunday during a raid in Annah, a town in the so-called Sunni triangle, where opposition to the U.S. occupation is fierce.

The government said al-Dulaymi was a top aide to the Jordanian-born al-Zarqawi, who has described himself as al-Qaida's leader in Iraq. Al-Dulaymi was responsible for finding safe houses and transportation for members of the terrorist group, the announcement said.

Also arrested in Sunday's raid was Ahmad Khalid Marad Ismail al-Rawi, identified as one of al-Zarqawi's drivers.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,491 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,130 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 11 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,353 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,021 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Three soldiers were killed Friday in northern Baghdad when an explosive detonated near their patrol.

■ One soldier died Friday in Baghdad of non-combat injuries.

■ One soldier was killed Thursday in Anbar province, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Daniel G. Gresham, 23, Lincoln, Ill., killed Thursday when an explosive detonated while he responded to an earlier explosion; assigned to the 797th Ordnance Company, 79th Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

■ Army Spc. Jacob C. Palmatier, 29, Springfield, Ill., killed Thursday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Mugdadiyah, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

■ Army Sgt. Nicholas J. Olivier, 26, Ruston, La., killed Wednesday when an explosive detonated in Baghdad; assigned to the Army National Guard, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, Pineville, La.

# Shiites rally around al-Jaafari after endorsement

## Blessing of top cleric al-Sistani calms dissenters

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Shiite political dissenters who threatened to withdraw their support from the United Iraqi Alliance's choice for prime minister rallied around Ibrahim al-Jaafari Saturday after his endorsement by Iraq's most influential cleric.

The Shiite Political Council, which has about 30 seats in the soon to be installed National Assembly, had threatened to withdraw from the main United Iraqi Alliance after the latter group nominated al-Jaafari on Tuesday for the powerful post.

It complained that the clergy-backed alliance, which won 140 seats in the Jan. 30 elections, had forced the withdrawal of the man they were backing for pre-

mier — the secular Shiite Ahmad Chalabi.

The alliance has been negotiating with other parties to gain another eight seats, but that would still be far short of the majority it needs to get its way in the 275-member assembly, where a two-thirds majority is needed for serious decision taking — including electing the president.

But the group decided to back al-Jaafari after Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the nation's most influential Shiite cleric, "gave his blessings to the nomination" on Friday, said Ali Faisal, the council's political coordinator.

The council had threatened to withdraw unless one of its members was nominated for the largely ceremonial post of president — a post the Kurdish coalition considers to be reserved for one of their leaders.

Al-Jaafari is the leader of the conservative Islamic Dawa Party and one of the country's two current interim vice presidents.

Incumbent interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's Iraqi List had also been trying to win the Shiite Political Council's support.

To make any headway, however, Allawi would have to win support from a Kurdish coalition controlling 75 of the seats.

A senior official in the Kurdistan Democratic Party, Abdul-Salam Berwari, renewed demands that oil-rich Kirkuk in the north be included in their autonomous enclave and that Jalal Talabani, a secular Sunni Kurd and leader of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan be Iraq's next president.

Berwari said all Iraqi parties should be allowed to take part in writing the constitution, even if they boycotted the elections.



The United Iraqi Alliance's candidate for prime minister, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, waves to the crowd as he leaves a meeting with Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, in Najaf on Friday.

# U.S. braces for surge in Afghanistan violence

As winter subsides, officials believe rebel attacks will increase

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military is bracing for a fresh surge in militant violence in Afghanistan, a spokesman said Saturday, a day after one of its top commanders warned against any drawdown in American troops.

Taliban officials have rebuffed a U.S.-backed amnesty program and vowed to go on the offensive as the weather improves after a particularly harsh winter. Ten militants were killed and a U.S. soldier injured in clashes on Thursday in southern Afghanistan.

Local officials had also reported nine Afghan troops killed in a separate clash, but the Interior Ministry on Saturday disputed that account, saying in a press release that the nine dead were armed men with no connection to any Afghan security forces.

The ministry speculated the clash in Helmand province might have been a feud between drug gangs, and said an investigation is underway.

After reports of the deaths, purified Taliban spokesman Mullah Latif Hakimi



Maj. Gen. Eric Olson flies Friday to visit troops in the province of Paktika, near the Pakistan border. Olson warned against cutting U.S. force strength in Afghanistan, saying insurgents remain a grave threat.

claimed responsibility for the attack. About half a dozen people claim to speak for the rebel group, but it is often impossible to independently verify their accounts. "I think we can expect more attacks," U.S. spokesman Maj. Steve Wollman said at a news conference. "Historically, at-

## Pakistan: Back of al-Qaida is broken

The Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistani security agencies have "broken the back" of al-Qaida by dismantling its network and arresting hundreds of suspects in recent years, a Cabinet minister said Saturday.

"The remnants of al-Qaida are on the run. Their network is no more intact. They are scattered and not in a position to even plan attacks," Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao told reporters in this northwestern city of Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan.

tacks have increased as the winter subsides. We're prepared for those attacks."

"What we would hope for, and what we would prefer, is that the Taliban take the offer of the government of Afghanistan seriously to make peace, rather than to resort to violence," Wollman said.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 American commander in Afghanistan, told The Associated Press on Friday that about 100 militants had approached U.S. troops to seek a truce so that they could return to their homes in peace.

Olson said his officials were working on some 20-30 cases, but said there were "no

Pakistan is a key ally of the United States in its war on terror and Sherpao's comments came two days after the country's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Pakistani security forces have destroyed al-Qaida-linked militants' "sanctuaries and communication systems" along the border with Afghanistan.

However, he said Pakistan still had no clue about Osama bin Laden's whereabouts.

On Saturday, Sherpao said Pakistan is trying to root out terrorism and due to "brilliant performance of our security agencies, the al-Qaida leadership is no more effective."

real senior guys" among them.

Others may have approached the Afghan government, he added, but warned against any premature reduction in the 18,000-strong U.S.-led force — even if militants mount only a feeble "spring offensive."

Neither a currently 9,000-strong NATO security force in Kabul and the north nor the Afghan National Army were likely to take up the slack should the coalition weaken, he said in an interview after visiting U.S. troops in bases near the Pakistan border.

The U.S. presence at the core of the coalition has been critical to success of the overall coalition effort," said Olson.

## British soldiers get jail time for abusing Iraqis

BY MATT SURMAN  
The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — Three British soldiers were sentenced Friday to as many as two years in prison and dismissed from the military for abusing Iraqi civilians in the southern city of Basra in 2003 — a case that raised comparisons to abuse by U.S. forces at Abu Ghraib prison.

Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley was sentenced to two years in prison, Cpl. Daniel Kenyon to 18 months, and Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin to five months. All were dismissed from the service "with disgrace."

A court-martial this week found Kenyon and Cooley guilty of mistreating Iraqi detainees suspected of looting a humanitarian aid warehouse outside Basra in May 2003.

Larkin had previously pleaded guilty.

Judge Michael Hunter and the seven senior officers on the jury rejected pleas for leniency from the men's attorneys.

"When British soldiers in Iraq or anywhere behave as you behaved and abuse power as you did, you cannot expect to receive much leniency," Hunter said. "We recognize you are soldiers who have served your country and served your country well until this moment of madness."

In London, the head of the British army, Gen. Mike Jackson, apologized to the Iraqi people for the abuse by his soldiers, saying he was "appalled and disappointed."

"The incidents depicted are in direct contradiction of the core values and standards of the British army," Jackson said at a news conference at the Ministry of Defense. "... Nevertheless, in the light of the evidence from this trial, I do apologize on behalf of the army to those Iraqis who were abused and to the people of Iraq."



A courtroom drawing shows British soldiers Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, second left, Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, left, and Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, right, in the courtroom of the British Court Centre in Osnabrueck, Germany, on Friday.

Defense attorneys argued that the soldiers — based in Germany with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers — followed a general order to make looters "work hard" and that a general air of cavalier justice "infected" the camp.

Pictures of the abuse, which included an Iraqi hoisted on a forklift and two naked men forced to simulate sexual acts, provoked dismay in Britain after being published in newspapers, leading to comparisons with the scandal over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison.

The photos were taken by another soldier. Prime Minister Tony Blair drew on prosecutors' words to call the images "shocking and appalling."

Cooley, 25, was convicted Wednesday of simulating punching a detainee, an action that

was shown in a photograph, and of tying up a detainee and hoisting him on a forklift.

Kenyon, 34, was convicted of aiding and abetting the abuse and failing to report it. Larkin, 30, pleaded guilty to battery for standing on top of an Iraqi who was bound and lying on the ground.

Attorneys for the men called on the judge and military jury not to be swayed by public opinion.

"There has been a huge clamor from some quarters of public opinion for dismissal [from the military] and imprisonment," said Joseph Giret, who represents Kenyon. "This is a response not rooted in justice ... That is the lynch mob response."

Fusilier Gary Berrham, 20, who took the photos that launched the scandal, was sentenced in January to 18 months in a youth prison after a separate trial.

## Iraqi TV presenter found dead in Mosul

The Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — A female Iraqi television presenter kidnapped in the northern city of Mosul last week was found dead, her husband said Saturday.

Raiedah Mohammed Wagueh Wazan was abducted Feb. 20 by several masked gunmen. Her corpse was found Friday, said her husband, Salim Saad-Allah. She had been shot in the head.

Wazan was popular for local state TV in Mosul. It was unclear what prompted the kidnapping, but her TV station was attacked last week with mortar rounds that wounded three technicians.

An Arabic-language Internet bulletin board recently carried a statement from al-Qaida's Iraq affiliate claiming responsibility for the killing. For strike, but there was no way to verify the veracity of the claim.

The U.S. military says insurgents have not contacted the station and threatened employees there.

Saad-Allah said there would be no funeral procession for Wazan because he'd received threats not to hold one. He gave no details.

This week, the station aired extensive interviews with alleged insurgents that security forces captured in Mosul.



# Soldier fulfills pledge made to his troops

Despite horrible injuries, 1st Sgt. Jurgensen greets his unit as they return from Iraq

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — First Sergeant kept his word.

One month after a rocket-propelled grenade blew off his leg, mangled his arm and tore a gash in his head while his convoy patrolled in Iraq, 1st Sgt. Brent Jurgensen fulfilled a pledge he made to troops of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment when they left for the Middle East a year ago. He vowed he would personally lead them home.

So he and his wife, Karin, flew home to Schweinfurt last week from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, where he awoke from a drug-induced coma less than three weeks ago. On Wednesday night, Jurgensen — the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of 1-4 Cavalry's headquarters troop — greeted 80 of his soldiers behind a curtain in the gym at Conn Barracks.

Then he led them out.

"He made a promise to his men. He kept it," Karin Jurgensen said. "That's who he is."

Jurgensen's appearance so soon after his second near-fatal injury in Iraq electrified his troops, who did not know he had come home. They clapped for several minutes when they saw him.

"It was like the Academy Awards — just nonstop applause," said Master Sgt. Todd Shippy, 40, of Spartanburg, S.C., who helped rescue the injured Jurgensen from the Humvee Jan. 26, and who took his place as the troop's NCOIC. "There was not a dry eye in the gymnasium."

Last June, Jurgensen, 42, of Clinton, Iowa, suffered a gunshot wound to the face during an ambush near Ad Duluiyah, Iraq. He spent four months in Germany, enduring a series of surgeries on his mouth and upper jaw. Despite warnings from fellow troops, he returned to Iraq in October.

Then in late January, Jurgensen was part of a patrol inspecting polling sites a few days before Iraq's historic national elections. Two insurgents fired grenades at his trail Humvee. His gunner, Sgt. William Kinzer, died instantly. Jurgensen stayed alive, barely.

"He died two times on the [operating] table," Karin Jurgensen said. "God's intervened to save this man twice."

He worked furiously to be well enough to fly to Germany to meet his troops. Jurgensen's doctors cleared him about 10 days ago, and a Vietnam veteran bought airline tickets for the couple.

Between Wednesday and Friday, Jurgensen greeted about 300 1-4 Cavalry troops as they arrived in Schweinfurt.

Like Jurgensen, the squadron has endured a year of loss and pain. Ten of its men died, all in ambushes, and dozens more earned Purple Hearts. In spite of daily patrols, searches and arrests, the insurgency raged throughout the year.

But the 1-4 Cavalry also played a lead role in the successful assault that freed Samarra from terrorists, supervised the reconstruction of health clinics and schools, trained Iraqi soldiers, secured polling sites on election day and modernized their own bases.

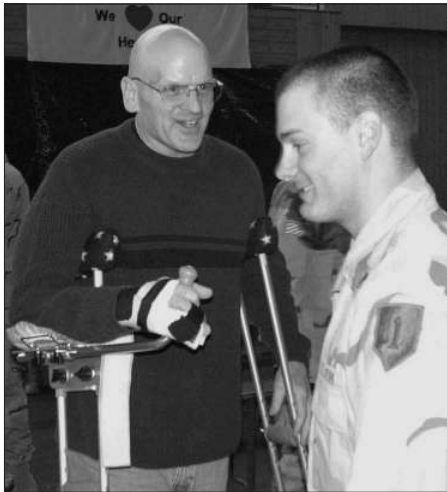
And, Jurgensen said, the unit is quite different from the one that left Schweinfurt a year ago.

"The squadron is a close, tight-knit family now," he said. "I've seen kids, amateur soldiers, grow into men really quick."

His troops said it felt good but strange to be back in Germany after a year in Iraq. And several said it comforted them to see their first sergeant again.

"I just had to pay my respects and shake his hand," said Spc. Tyson Winingham, 22, of Hutchinson, Kan. "He doesn't give up."

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STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

First Sgt. Brent Jurgensen, twice badly injured in Iraq, greets his former driver, Spc. Kevin Pape, during a Friday homecoming celebration for the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, at Conn Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany. The unit is currently returning from a yearlong tour of Iraq.

## Guard families in difficult times support each other

BY PATRICK CONDON

The Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — While Laurie Olmon's husband was serving in Iraq, the family's basement flooded. The septic tank busted. A wheel on her car fell off. Her dog got sick, and nearly died.

Then there were days when those hassles seemed trivial — when the news brought fresh reports of U.S. soldiers being killed and wounded in Iraq.

"They never say where it happens at first," said Olmon, whose husband, Phillip, is a member of the Minnesota National Guard, returned home about a month ago after more than a year in Iraq.

"All they say is a bomb went off or a base was hit. I quit watching the news."

Olmon said she relied heavily on her husband's unit, which helped to assemble a loose network of national Guard members who lean on each other for friendship and sympathy, as well as practical support in everything from finding help on tax returns to cleaning out the gutters.

These networks are increasingly common across the country as more military families wait out



Laurie Olmon, right, discusses her experiences while her husband was serving with the Minnesota National Guard in Iraq during an interview, Thursday, in Anoka, Minn. Olmon said she couldn't have handled his absence without the help from a loose network of Guard family members, including Sgt. Gwen Zimmerman, left.

long overseas deployments.

More than 55,000 Minnesota Guard troops are deployed in Iraq, and more than 170 have died there since the war began

nearly two years ago. On Monday, the Minnesota soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb, marking the Minnesota National Guard's first fatalities in Iraq.

### Relying on each other

**CONSTANT STRUGGLE:** The families of National Guard soldiers say they worry not only about the safety of their loved ones, but also about everyday concerns such as paying taxes and cleaning the gutters.

**NETWORK OF SUPPORT:** The Department of Defense has launched Family Assistance Centers in all 50 states as part of an effort to provide help and information to Guard families.

**QUOTE:** "I had to learn plumbing. I had to learn car maintenance. I had to learn to deal with a 15-year-old boy on my own." — Laurie Olmon, who relied on a support group while her husband was in Iraq.

From The Associated Press

Unlike families of active-duty soldiers, who often live on military bases with built-in support networks, Guard families are more dispersed and may not have the expertise to navigate bureaucracies and access certain benefits.

To help remedy that, the Department of Defense implemented a series of Family Assistance Centers in all 50 states, staffed by consultants who give Guard families help with legal issues, insurance and financial questions, household problems and whatever else might come up.

"In order for a soldier to be safe on a mission, they have to

know that their family is cared for at home," said Gail Mossman, one of the consultants in Minnesota, which has eight centers.

"It's a camaraderie that I don't think anyone else could be aware of," Olmon said.

She said the support networks, along with help from family and friends, got her through her rockiest stretches.

"I spent more time on the phone crying, and laughing, and hollering, than you can imagine," Olmon said. "It was agonizing and it was traumatic. But it was a learning experience. Parts of it, I know I grew from. And parts of it I never want to go through again."



Photos courtesy of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment/LATWP

Maj. Mohammed Ali Abdul al-Mutalib leads a team of Iraqi soldiers dredging the canal for the bodies of three American soldiers.

# Humvee tragedy forges brotherhood of soldiers

## Americans gain new respect for Iraqi counterparts

BY STEVE FAINARU  
The Washington Post

BALAD, Iraq — When the Iraqi troops arrived that morning, three American servicemen lay dead at the bottom of the Isaki Canal.

The body of a fourth, Sgt. Rene Knox Jr., 22, had been recovered from a submerged Humvee. Patrolling without headlights around 4:30 a.m., Knox had overshot a turn. His vehicle tumbled down a concrete embankment and settled upside down in the frigid water.

During the harrowing day-long mission to recover the bodies of the Humvee's three occupants on Feb. 13, an Air Force firefighter also drowned. Five U.S. soldiers were treated for hypothermia. For five hours, three Navy SEAL divers searched the canal before their tanks ran out of oxygen.

What happened then, however, has transformed the relationship between the Iraqi soldiers and the skeptical Americans who train them.

Using a tool they welded themselves that day at a cost of about \$40, the Iraqis dredged the canal through the cold afternoon until the tan boot of Spec. Dakotah Gooding, 21, of Des Moines, Iowa, appeared at the surface. The Iraqis

then jumped into the water to pull him out, and went back again and again until they had recovered the last American.

Then they stood atop the canal, shivering in the dark. "When I saw those Iraqis in the water, fighting to save their American brothers, I saw a glimpse of the future of this country," said Col. Mark McKnight, commander of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, which had overall responsibility for the unit in the accident, his eyes tearing.

Pfc. Russell Naveh, 23, of Arlington,

Tex., said they were crying for us. They were saying we were their brothers, too."

The tragedy on Feb. 13 began when 11 soldiers from the 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, set out from Camp Paliwoda, 50 miles north of Baghdad. Their four Humvees headed toward Balad's western outskirts, from where the Americans believed insurgents had fired rockets at the base. The convoy stopped at an intersection along a dirt road with a canal on the other side. When the vehicles turned back, the second Humvee was missing.

The Humvee was upside down in the middle of the 50-foot-wide canal. None of the three soldiers appeared to be alive. But the platoon raced to get them out of the water.

Two Black Hawk helicopters arrived. They carried Air Force firefighters from the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, dispatched from nearby Logistical Support Area Anasconda (Air Force officers declined to discuss details of the incident because of a pending investigation.) Within moments, the airmen were also struggling for their lives, the soldiers said. Neither air-



A Navy SEAL searches in vain for the bodies of three American servicemen at Isaki Canal in Balad, Iraq.

man could get out of the canal; one clutched desperately at the embankment but couldn't get hold, the soldiers said. He slowly began to float away.

At that point, the Iraqi soldiers showed up. The Americans had not called the Iraqis for assistance. About 7 a.m., Sgt. Maj. Maitham Hadi Naoum of the Iraqi army's 203rd Battalion woke up to see U.S. Apache attack helicopters circling the western edge of Balad. He radioed the battalion commander, Col. Shujaa Jawad Hussein, and another officer, Maj. Mohammed Ali Abdul al-Mutalib.

The commanders gathered every soldier they could find and headed to the canal. Asked why he felt so strongly about helping the Americans, Abdul al-Mutalib said through an interpreter: "These people come 10,000 miles to help my country. They've left their fami-

**"These people come 10,000 miles to help my country. They've left their families, their children. When we get hurt, they help treat us and take [us] to hospitals. If we can give them something back, just a little, we can show our thanks."**

**Maj. Mohammed Ali Abdul al-Mutalib**  
Iraq's 203rd Battalion

**"When I saw those Iraqis in the water, fighting to save their American brothers, I saw a glimpse of the future of this country."**

**Col. Mark McKnight**  
Commander of the 1st Brigade,  
3rd Infantry Division

ton, Texas, a medic whose platoon was involved in the accident, said he arrived in Iraq this month with preconceptions about the Iraqi forces. The actions of the Iraqis that Sunday "changed my mind for how I felt about these guys," he said. "I have a totally different perspective now. They were just so

lies, their children. When we get hurt, they help treat us and take [us] to hospitals. If we can give them something back, just a little, we can show our thanks."

While the Americans had not called the Iraqis went to a Balad auto repair shop and built their own piece of dredging equipment. The tool they created looked like a 20-foot length of rusted bed frame, with 11 curved pieces of rebar hastily welded to it.

The Iraqis returned to the canal in the early afternoon and began working both sides of the canal in 10-man teams. They lowered the tool into the water with ropes, dredged, then dredged some more. A U.S. military truck pulled up with food for the rescuers. The Iraqis hadn't eaten all day. The U.S. soldiers lined up at the truck, heaping their plates with food. Instead of feeding themselves, they fanned out, distributing the plates to the Iraqis.

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# Can the U.S. Naval Academy 'do better'?

## Administrators, students upset after professor claims admissions process is unfair

BY MOLLY KNIGHT

The Baltimore Sun

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A U.S. Naval Academy professor's published claims that the college's admissions process is severely flawed has generated a storm of controversy at the military college, including a rebuke from the school's superintendent.

Bruce Fleming, an 18-year faculty member who spent one year on the admissions board, challenges the academy's admissions policies in an article in this month's Proceedings, a national defense magazine. In an article titled "The Academy Can Do Better," Fleming criticizes preferential treatment for three groups he calls the "set-asides": applicants who are minorities, athletes or already members of the fleet.

"Admission to the Naval Academy is academically competitive for only about half the class," Fleming writes.

The article unleashed a torrent of e-mails from midshipmen to Fleming. The professor said about half of the messages contained expressions of support, while the other half attacked his claims. One e-mail threatened him, Fleming said.

The article also prompted a stinging letter earlier this month from Vice Adm. Rodney P. Rempt, the school's superintendent. In it, Rempt wrote that he was "surprised and disappointed" by the professor's article.

The controversy comes at a time when the role of race in the university admissions process has become a national discussion. In 2003, the Supreme Court narrowly upheld the right of public colleges to consider race in admissions procedures, but struck down a point system used by the University of Michigan's undergraduate for minority applicants.

Fleming wrote that the ruling shows that racial admissions policies are illegal, but Rempt countered in his letter that this view "ignores the lengthy legal review and findings reached by the Navy" following the decision.

R. Lawrence Purdy, a Naval Academy graduate and an attorney with the Minnesota-based firm that represented the plaintiffs in the Supreme Court case, said he could not comment on the academy's admissions policies.

However, he added, "I can say that if the admissions personnel is engaged in what Mr. Fleming described, then I believe those sorts of policies are a clear violation of the Constitution."

The academy's admissions policy has been challenged in the past, most recently by the National Center for Fair and Open Testing of Cambridge, Mass. In 2002, the

watchdog group accused the military college of improperly preventing students from submitting a full application because of their low SAT or ACT scores.

Academy spokesman Cmdr. Rod Gibbons said Thursday that Fleming would not be subject to any disciplinary action for writing the article, and that the school supported an individual's right to "express personal opinions in a reasonable and accurate manner." But he echoed Rempt, saying that academy officials were disappointed with Fleming's assertions.

Admission into the Naval Academy is extremely competitive. On average, about 1,000 of the more than 12,000 who apply to the academy each year are accepted. To apply, students must be nominated by a public official (such as a member of Congress or the president) and pass a fitness test, among other requirements.

# Pentagon identifies remains of pilot shot down over China

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Closing a curious chapter of Korean War history, the Pentagon announced Friday it had identified the remains of an Air Force pilot whose jet crashed in China during a dogfight with a Russian flying for North Korea.

The case puts a spotlight on a Russian role in the 1950-53 Korean War that was kept quiet for decades and helped feed speculation inside the American government that the Russians had attempted — and perhaps managed — to capture U.S. pilots to exploit them for intelligence purposes.

Capt. Troy "Gordie" Cope, of Norfolk, Ark., was piloting what was then the Air Force's best fighter, the F-86 Sabre, on Sept. 16, 1952, when he encountered MIG-15 fighters — purportedly North Korean but flown by Russians — over the Yalu River that separates North Korea from China.

Cope, 28, was shot down and never seen again.

Only the Soviet Union's highest intelligence collection priorities at the time was U.S. Air Force technology.

Cope was among 31 F-86 pilots lost and unaccounted for during the Korean War whom the Pentagon had suspected may have been captured alive and secretly

smuggled into the Soviet Union. Not all of those cases have been resolved, and Cope's may not have been if not for a string of unusual fortune.

In 1995, a U.S. businessman spotted Cope's name on a U.S. dog tag on display in a military museum in the Yalu River city of Dandong, China.

In 1999, during a search by Pentagon analysts of Russia's Podolsk military archives, documents describing Cope's shoot-down were discovered. They included statements and drawings by Russian pilots who had flown the MIG-15s for the North Koreans in combat against the U.S. Air Force.

Also in the Russian documents were detailed reports on a search of the crash site by included statements and drawings by Russian pilots who had flown the MIG-15s for the North Koreans in combat against the U.S. Air Force.

The site was excavated by U.S. officials last May, recovering aircraft debris and human remains.

The remains were identified in October. In announcing the identification Friday, the Pentagon did not explain the delay in making it public. It is the first time remains of a U.S. military pilot from the Korean War have been recovered from Chinese territory, although there have been other recent cases involving World War II and CIA missions.



Fran Look plays taps during a funeral at Bath National Cemetery in Bath, N.Y., on Jan. 21. With an average of 1,800 U.S. veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam now dying every day, along with a steady stream of casualties in Iraq, live renditions of taps at military funerals have become a relative rarity.

## 41 miles, 41 minutes of somber taps

BY BEN DOBBIN

The Associated Press

BATH, N.Y. — Once the pastor intoned, "May he rest in peace," a Marine Corps honor guard lifted the flag off Thomas Wagner's casket and held it aloft. Right on cue, from an adjacent hilltop at Bath National Cemetery, there rose a stirring bugle call.

Played by an American Legion post chaplain, the Civil War dirge known as taps endures as a final salute to fallen veterans — most of them, like Wagner, were warriors long ago.

"For the families of those who served, it adds a beautiful, somber tone, a feeling of finality," said Fran Look, a World War II paratrooper who performs at a dozen funerals each year and played at Wagner's ceremony.

With an average of 1,800 U.S. veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam now dying every day, along with a steady stream of casualties in Iraq, live renditions of taps at military funerals have become a relative rarity.

The 24-note melody is usually delivered digitally — via a compact disc player placed near the grave or, increasingly since 2003, a Pentagon-approved push-button "ceremonial bugle" that anyone can mimic playing by raising it to their lips.

The armed forces have about 500 musicians who perform taps, but many of them have been dispatched to the Middle East. A few thousand civil-

ian volunteers in the Bugles Across America group also fill in wherever they can.

But it's well known that there aren't nearly enough buglers to go around.

Now, to spotlight the scarcity and help address it, horn players are planning a dramatic musical performance, called the Echo Taps project.

Stretched across 41 miles between two national cemeteries in rural western New York, hundreds of musicians will play a cascading arrangement of taps on Armed Forces Day, May 21.

"Once the first bugler plays the first three notes, the second bugler will start and then, three notes later, the next," said Les Hampton, a Corning Inc. engineer who served on a Navy destroyer in the Vietnam War. "If we have a bugler every 10th of a mile, or 410 buglers, the rate of sound traveling through the valley would be to enlist an hour and last 41 minutes."

The Echo Taps project's goals are to enliven more volunteer buglers, honor military service and raise the profile of America's 120 national cemeteries.

It's open to all brass horns, from trombones to mellotrons. A mile-long span in Coopers Plains will be devoted to tubas — in memory of a tuba-playing soldier from the village who died young.

Already, more than 500 musicians, some from as far off as California, have said they'll play. The more the better, said Hampton. "If we get 2,000, we will have them all in there."



## IN THE WORLD

Nuns pray Saturday during a Mass in Rome's St. Maria Maggiore Basilica during Pope John Paul II's third day of hospitalization. The Vatican has announced the pope's voice will not be heard at weekend prayers for the first time since 1992.

AP



# Ailing pope won't speak at prayers

By BRIAN MURPHY  
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II will join in Sunday's Angelus prayers from his hospital room but will not read them out or greet the faithful from a window, the Vatican said Saturday as the pope recovered from a throat operation to ease a breathing crisis.

Vatican officials confirmed there were no plans for the 84-year-old pontiff to make a brief appearance at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital during Sunday's blessing, a weekly tradition dear to the pope.

Sunday will be the first time the pope will neither appear nor have his voice heard at an Angelus service. In 1992, after he had surgery to remove an intestinal tumor, the Vatican taped a message and prayer by John Paul and played the recording for the faithful.

Doctors have advised the pope not to speak for several days as he recovers from surgery to insert a breathing tube into his throat.

The Holy See's terse announcement came after officials met to decide if John Paul was well enough to make some written statement or

gesture aimed at reassuring the world his recovery is progressing after his second breathing crisis in less than a month.

But with the pope in a delicate state, the Vatican said its undersecretary of state would read the prayers to the faithful assembled on St. Peter's Square.

The Vatican took pains Friday to emphasize the positive: The pope was breathing on his own, showed no signs of pneumonia and ate a breakfast.

But it remained unclear how long the tracheotomy device inserted in his throat would remain and if the pope would eventually regain full command of his voice. No official health update was expected until Monday.

The image drove home a clear worry at the Vatican: that the pope's ailments will gradually reduce his abilities to communicate and reach out to followers — a hallmark of his 26-year papacy that's included 104 international trips and several best-selling papal books.

Associated Press writers Victor L. Simpson and Daniela Petroff contributed to this story.

## Pontiff show flashes of humor despite health complications

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — As Pope John Paul II struggles with his second health crisis in a month, he is displaying something not usually associated with the dignity and solemnity of his office: a sense of humor.

"What did they do to me?" was the quip Vatican aides say he scribbled on a piece of paper Friday after he woke up following surgery to ease his breathing problems.

Ahead of the operation, when doctors tried to reassure him that the procedure would be a small one, the reply was: "Small! It depends for whom."

The Vatican has appeared eager to report on John Paul's humorous statements, perhaps as a way to allay concerns about his health or to present the Roman Catholic flock with an example of how to face adversity.

While attired in full papal regalia, John Paul has never hesitated

to display warmth and a dry wit. It's all a part of the common touch that has allowed him to connect with the people as few pontiffs have done in the past.

Early on in his papacy, when reporters asked him whether a pope could step down, he replied

he wouldn't know where to submit his resignation.

In recent years, as his infirmities multiplied, which include Parkinson's disease and crippling

hip and knee ailments — have become ever more apparent, he has shown self-deprecating humor.

"So you want a young pope," he once told a group of youths. "Well, I guess I'm a young pope."



Pope John Paul II

## Disputes put Russia-Iran nuclear fuel pact on hold

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI  
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Last-minute disputes Saturday forced Iran and Russia to postpone the signing of an agreement to supply Iran with fuel for its first nuclear reactor, a deal strongly opposed by the United States.

Russia and Iran's top nuclear officials had been set to sign the agreement Saturday morning, a day after a summit between the U.S. and Russian presidents.

Mohammad Saeedi, deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, attributed the postponement to differences over the delivery time of the first shipment of fuel and the launch of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Saeedi said the deal may be signed Sunday in Bushehr, the southern town where Iran's first reactor was built, using Russian help.

Under the agreement, Russia will provide Iran with fuel and take back the spent fuel, a safeguard meant to banish fears World would misuse it to build nuclear weapons. U.N. nuclear experts also would monitor the facility.

Still, Washington has pressed Moscow to call off the deal, saying the Iranians could use the Bushehr reactor as part of a nuclear weapons program. Thursday's summit in Bratislava, Slovakia, between President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin touched on American concerns, but Putin has said he is sure Iran does not intend to build nuclear weapons and Russian cooperation with the country would continue.

An International Atomic Energy Agency probe over the past two years had previously established that Iran ran a clandestine nuclear program for nearly two decades, including working on uranium enrichment — which can be used to make weapons.

Associated Press reporter George John contributed to this report.

## Palestinians arrest pair after Tel Aviv bombing

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian police on Saturday arrested two suspected militants in connection with a suicide bombing that killed four Israelis at a Tel Aviv nightclub, acting on orders from Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to track down those responsible for what he called an act of sabotage.

Palestinian security officials pointed to the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, which has been trying to disrupt an informal Mideast truce, as the apparent mastermind of the attack. Abbas hinted at Hezbollah involvement, holding a "third party" responsible for the bombing. Hezbollah, which is funded by Iran, has hundreds of West Bank gunmen from various Palestinian militant groups on its payroll.

Israel and the United States said Abbas has to act quickly and forcefully — despite his long-standing reluctance to confront militants — if he wants to rescue a fragile Mideast truce.

## Canada to depose Holocaust denier to face trial

TORONTO — Jewish activists hailed a court ruling that allows Canada to deport German Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel to face prosecution at home.

Zundel, author of "The Hitler We Loved and Why," has been held in a Toronto jail for two years while authorities determined whether he posed a security risk to Canadian society. Zundel's lawyer Peter J. Minns said in statement that Zundel would not appeal and expected to be deported as early as next Tuesday.

From The Associated Press

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# Another general surrenders

## Bosnian Serb leader cedes to war crimes tribunal

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — A retired Bosnian Serb general, who was charged by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for alleged atrocities against Bosnian Muslims in 1995, will voluntarily surrender to the court in the Netherlands. Serbia's government said Friday.

Gen. Radivoje Miletic, a former deputy chief-of-staff of the Bosnian Serb army, was recently charged by the tribunal in The Hague along with another Bosnian Serb, Gen. Milan Gvero, for their part in the massacre of more than 7,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in July 1995.

Gvero surrendered to The Hague court authorities on Thursday.

Miletic also agreed to give himself up, the Serbian government said in a statement, adding that he will travel to the Netherlands next Monday.

Miletic and Gvero were close allies to wartime Bosnian Serb commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, a



**Bosnian Serb retired Gen. Milan Gvero, indicted for his alleged role in a massacre during the Bosnian war, flew to the Netherlands on Thursday to surrender to the U.N. war crimes tribunal.**

top war-crimes fugitive. They are charged with the forcible expulsion and murder of Muslims on the eve of and during Bosnian

Serb onslaught on Srebrenica — the worst carnage in Europe since World War II.

According to the indictment unsealed in The Hague on Thursday, Gvero and Miletic were accused of belonging to "a joint criminal enterprise" that included Mladic and former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, the top fugitive, believed hiding in Bosnia.

Miletic was part of the army staff at Mladic's wartime headquarters during the 1992-95 Bosnian war and was in charge of military training and operations. After the end of the war in his native Bosnia, Miletic lived in Serbia.

Also on Friday, the U.N. court announced charges against another Bosnian Serb wartime commander, Gen. Zdravko Tolimir.

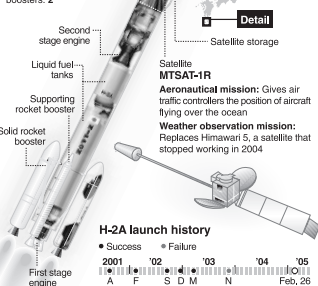
Along with Gvero and Miletic, Tolimir allegedly knew of "the plan to force the Muslim population from the Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves and was involved in the execution of that plan."

## Japan's crucial mission

Japan's space agency will launch its domestically built H-2A rocket Saturday to put a multipurpose satellite in orbit. Failure of the last liftoff in November 2003, put the nation's space missions on hold.

### H-2A F7

Total mass: About 323 tons  
Length: 53 m (175 feet)  
Diameter: 4 m (13 feet)  
Rocket boosters: 2  
Supporting rocket boosters: 2



### H-2A launch history

● Success ● Failure  
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005  
A F S D M J N  
Feb. 26

SOURCES: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency; Rocket System Corp.

# New book exposes Turkey's worries about eroding relationship with U.S.

BY LOUIS MEIXLER

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — In one of Turkey's best-selling thrillers, U.S. troops in northern Iraq open fire on a group of Turkish commandos, setting off a war between the NATO allies.

The book is "Metal Storm," and although pure fiction set in the year 2007, it highlights the deep fears many Turks harbor that the U.S. invasion of Iraq will put the decades-long alliance on a collision course.

The suspicion has become so serious that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in a meeting with Turkish leaders earlier this month, raised concerns about the

negative image of the United States in Turkey, American and Turkish diplomats said.

During the Cold War, Turkey and the United States saw their alliance as crucial to stopping Soviet expansion.

But now, the critical security issue to both countries is Iraq, where the two sides have vital interests that could conflict.

Washington sees Iraqi Kurds as key allies in bringing stability to the country. Turkey, however, is terrified that growing Iraqi Kurdish power could inspire Kurds in Turkey, where the army has battled autonomy-seeking Kurdish insurgents for decades.

A turning point for Turkey

came in 2003 when U.S. forces seized 11 Turkish soldiers in northern Iraq whom they suspected of plotting to assassinate a top U.S. Kurdish official. U.S. soldiers handcuffed the Turks and put sacks on over their heads, which many Turks considered an extreme humiliation.

In the United States, officials felt an important ally let them down when Turkey balked at allowing in U.S. troops for the Iraq invasion.

The book is "fiction, but in Turkey everyone is questioning whether there will eventually be a conflict between America and Turkey," Cem Kucuk, an editor at Times Yayinlari, the book's publisher, said in an interview Tuesday.

## Eurotunnel closed due to intruder

LONDON — The undersea Eurotunnel was closed for three hours early Saturday because a man was found near the entrance, causing delays on passenger and freight trains beneath the English Channel, the company that runs the tunnel said.

A man was spotted in the middle of the night near the entrance to the tunnel in Folkestone, England, said John Keefe, a spokesman for Eurotunnel. Operators called police and turned off the electricity in the tunnel at around 5 a.m. so officers could look for the man, whom they found outside the tunnel and apprehended, Keefe said.

## Victim's family welcomes IRA effort

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The family of a man believed to have been killed by Irish Republican Army members welcomed on Saturday the outlawed group's announcement that it was expelling three implicated members and urged any others involved in the killing to come forward.

Robert McCartney's stabbing death and the IRA's handling of its aftermath have focused Catholic anger against the underground organization.

In a lengthy statement late Friday, the IRA said it was doing everything it could to ensure that McCartney's killers were brought to justice. It emphasized it would not tolerate any attempts to intimidate witnesses to the Jan. 30 attack on McCartney, 33, and his friend Brendan Devine, who had his throat and stomach slashed but survived.

## France's finance minister resigns

PARIS — France's embattled finance minister resigned Friday after allegations he used government money to rent an \$18,500-a-month apartment for his family while trying to control public spending as a Cabinet member.

President Jacques Chirac within hours named France Telecom boss Thierry Breton to succeed Giscard, who had spent less than three months at the finance ministry.

The 44-year-old Giscard, who took over the finance ministry in November, was first criticized last week when the satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaîné revealed that he, his wife and eight children were living in a duplex paid for by the government.

From The Associated Press

# Back in space race

## Japan ends hiatus by launching rocket

BY ERIC TALMADGE

The Associated Press

TANEGASHIMA, Japan — Ending a 15-month blank caused by a spectacular liftoff failure, a Japanese-designed H-2A rocket roared off its launchpad and successfully placed a satellite in orbit Saturday, putting Japan back in space — though rival China has raced ahead to become Asia's leading space power.

The liftoff into a cloudy sunset from this remote southern Japan island was a major breakthrough.

Domestically designed and built, the 74-foot tall H-2A is the centerpiece of Japan's space program — which, though relatively low-budget, has marked some impressive accomplishments.

Japan was the fourth country to launch a satellite, in 1972, and, along with a major lunar exploration mission in the works now has a probe on its way to collect and retrieve samples from an asteroid, a mission that if successful would be a first.

But the midair explosion of an H-2A launched in November 2003 put Japan's space plans on hold. Controllers had to detonate that rocket and its payload of two spy satellites after a booster failed to detach.

The setback came just one month after China successfully launched its first astronaut into orbit. Beijing has since announced it is aiming for the moon.

"We could not afford another

failure," Science Minister Naruki Nakayama said after watching Saturday's launch. "My heart leapt when I saw the liftoff."

Japanese officials say they are not in a space race with China.

But in a major policy switch, a government panel last year recommended that Japan begin studying the possibility of establishing its own manned program.

In a departure from its peace-ful-uses only space policy, Japan launched its first spy satellite months before the 2003 failure. Another set of spy satellites is now awaiting launch, though a date has not been set.

While controversial in Japan and strongly condemned by Pyongyang, the program is not technically a military one. It is not paid for through military funds, and officials say it poses no threat to North Korea or any other country.

Despite a influx of funds for spy satellites, officials at JAXA, Japan's space agency, stress that because Japan's space program, which has a budget of about \$2.5 billion, enough for two launches a year.

## IN THE STATES

## 1.2M bank accounts jeopardized

Bank of America loses tapes with federal workers' information

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — Bank of America Corp. has lost computer data tapes containing personal information on 1.2 million federal employees, including some members of the U.S. Senate.

The lost data includes Social Security numbers and account information that could make customers of a federal government charge card program vulnerable to identity theft.

Sen. Pat Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, is among those senators whose personal information is on the missing tapes, spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer said.

The bank issued an apology.

"We deeply regret this unfortunate incident," said Barbara Dessor, who is in charge of technology, service and fulfillment for the Charlotte-based bank. "The privacy of custom-

er information receives the highest priority at Bank of America, and we take our responsibilities for safeguarding it very seriously."

Leahy has been a leader of calls this week for a Senate Judiciary Committee inquiry into whether more regulation of companies that buy and sell personal data is needed.

That came after the disclosure that ChoicePoint Inc., a data warehouse, had learned that as many as 140,000 consumers may have had their personal information compromised.

"I hope this latest incident at least will bring the issue closer to home so Congress will pay better attention to the rapid erosion of privacy rights that ordinary Americans are facing as more and more of their personal and financial information is collected and sold on databases that too often have too few privacy protections," Leahy said in a statement Friday.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer said he was told the data backup tapes were likely stolen off of a commercial plane by baggage handlers in December.

Bank spokeswoman Eloise Hale called the system of shipping backup tapes "an industry practice and a routine bank practice. As a safety precaution measure, backup tapes are stored in different locations."

She declined to give any more details about where and how the tapes are moved around the country.

The missing tapes include information on federal employees who use Bank of America "smart pay" charge cards for travel and expenses, Hale said Friday.

"The investigation to date has found no evidence to suggest the tapes or their content have been accessed or misused, and the tapes are now presumed lost," the bank said in a news release.

## Bush: Social Security big problem for Americans

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Back from a visit to U.S. allies in Europe, President Bush now is lobbying a home-front target: wary lawmakers returning from a long congressional break, where they heard their constituents' concerns about Social Security system's privacy overhaul.

Bush

The lawmakers got an earful from voters back home. Now, Bush wants them to listen to him.

"We need to act now to fix Social Security permanently," he said Saturday in a radio address aimed at Congress.

The president is making a fresh push for his plan to let younger workers put part of their Social Security payroll taxes in private investment accounts. He has taken that campaign to eight states and is continuing it next Friday in New Jersey and Indiana.

Bush is making the trips in hopes of persuading voters to pressure Congress to tackle the future solvency problems of the politically sensitive Social Security system. His message is twofold: reassure those born before 1950 that their Social Security benefits will not change in any way and tell younger workers that "Social Security is heading toward bankruptcy."

"Massive numbers of baby boomers, like me, will soon begin to retire," Bush said in his radio remarks. "People are living longer and benefits are scheduled to increase dramatically, and fewer workers will be paying into the system to support each retiree."

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, the new Democratic Party chairman, criticized Bush earlier this week for suggesting Social Security faces a big crisis.

Bush readily admits that the personal retirement accounts won't solve the solvency problem, but he wants them to be part of a permanent fix.

If left unchanged, beginning as early as 2018, Social Security is set to pay out more in benefits than it collects in taxes. And by 2042, the money stored from past surpluses will be exhausted and Social Security will only be able to pay 73 percent of promised benefits from the revenues it will be taking in, according to the retirement program's trustees.

## Kan. police arrest serial killer suspect

Officials believe 59-year-old man is responsible for 10 slayings

By ROXANA HEHEMAN

The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kansas — Police said Saturday they have arrested a man they believe is the notorious BTK serial killer who terrorized Wichita throughout the 1970s and then resurfaced about a year ago after 25 years of silence.

"The bottom line: BTK is arrested," Wichita Police Chief Norman Williams said at a news conference in Wichita with some of the victims' family members.

BTK investigator Lt. Ken Landwehr identified the suspect as Dennis Rader, a 59-year-old city worker in nearby Park City, who was arrested Friday at his suburban home.

The BTK killer — a self-coined nickname that stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill" — had been linked to eight killings committed between 1974 and 1986. Police said Saturday they have attributed two more slayings to BTK, from 1985 and 1991.

No charges had been filed Saturday. Prosecutor Nola Foulston said that while there is no statute of limitations for homicide, the death penalty would not apply to any crime committed before 1994, when the death penalty was introduced in Kansas.

BTK sent letters to media about the crimes in the 1970s, but stopped for more than two decades before re-establishing contact last March with a letter about an unsolved 1986 killing.

Since then, authorities said the killer has sent at least eight letters to the media or police, including three packages containing jewelry that police believed may have been taken from BTK's victims. One letter contained the driver's license of victim Nancy Fox.

The new letters sent chills through Wichita, but also rekindled hope that modern forensic science could find some clue that would finally lead police to a killer most thought was dead or safe-



Dennis Rader of Park City, Kan., was arrested in connection with the BTK serial killings Saturday, officials said.

ly locked in prison for some other crime.

Thousands of tips poured in, and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation conducted hundreds of DNA swabs in connection with the BTK investigation.

A source with knowledge of the investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity said surveillance gave police their "first big piece" of recent evidence, leading authorities to a vehicle and the suspect.

One of the victims newly identified by police, 53-year-old Marlene Hedge, lived on Rader's street in Park City. She was abducted from her home in 1985, and her body was found eight days later along a dirt road.

Investigators searched Rader's house Friday and seized computer equipment.



Delores Davis, left, and Marine Hedge, center, were named possible victims of BTK killer Saturday. Hedge, 53, was abducted from her home on April 27, 1985, and found along a dirt road 8 days later. Davis, 62, was abducted from her home on Jan. 19, 1991, and found two weeks later. Vick Wegerle, right, was killed in 1986 in Wichita, and her case has gone unsolved. On March 19, 2004, a letter arrived at The Wichita Eagle, allegedly from BTK, with information about Wegerle, a copy of the victim's driver's license and photos of her slain body.

# Stewart's life living will be watched closely

## Martha Stewart's homecoming

After serving five months in prison, Martha Stewart will be released next weekend to serve home confinement at her 153-acre estate in Katonah, N.Y.

### Some of the home confinement conditions

► May leave home 48 hours a week for "gauf employment"

► May entertain colleagues, neighbors, friends and relatives, but no convicts

► Submit a "truthful and complete" report in the first five days of each month

Tracking Martha

► An ankle and random phones calls will enforce ban on going outside during non-working hours

► May not leave the judicial district without permission until August

Electronic ankle

► May not leave the judicial district without permission until August

► May not leave the judicial district without permission until August

► May not leave the judicial district without permission until August

SOURCE: United States District Court, AP

BY JIM FITZGERALD  
The Associated Press

KATONAH, N.Y. — She will be able to return to work and start drawing her \$900,000 salary again, and she will be free to throw lavish house parties — as long as she doesn't invite any criminals.

Martha Stewart will also be wearing the must-have accessory for the convicted felon on the go: an electronic ankle that will allow authorities to monitor her movements.

After five months in prison in West Virginia, Stewart will be released next weekend to her 153-acre estate in the rolling horse country 40 miles north of midtown Manhattan. There, for another five months, she will serve the home detention portion of her sentence for a stock scandal.

The woman behind a billion-dollar homemaking empire will be confined to one of several houses on her estate in Katonah, except for 48 hours a week for "gauf employment," said Chris Stanton, chief U.S. probation officer in New York.

Stewart, 63, who also has homes in Connecticut, Maine and the Hamptons, chose the Katonah estate, which she bought in 2000 for \$16 million, to be her prison away from prison until August.

Probation authorities will use the ankle and random phone calls to enforce the ban on going outside during non-working hours.



This 153-acre estate in Katonah, N.Y., 40 miles north of midtown Manhattan, is where Martha Stewart will serve five months of home arrest after she leaves prison next week.

As for employment, besides running Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia and writing a column for her magazine, Stewart can prepare for the two TV shows she will be starring in — a revival of her daily homemaking show and her own version of "The Apprentice."

Her contract with her company

says that her salary, which was suspended while she was behind bars, will get reinstated during home detention.

It has not yet been established whether she will commute to Manhattan, travel to her TV studio in Westport or work at home. The details will be worked out at a meeting with her probation of-

ficer in the first few days after she gets out.

Allan Magrino, a spokeswoman for Stewart's company, refused to comment.

After being convicted, Stewart expressed the hope that she would be out of prison early enough to plant a spring garden, and there has been talk that she might use the grounds or her huge new greenhouse to tape gardening segments for her show. But that would require a town filming permit and no application has been filed, said Alexandra Costello of the Town of Bedford, which includes Katonah.

While confined, Stewart will be free to entertain colleagues, neighbors, friends and relatives, Stanton said, as long as they are not criminals. Convicted felons are not allowed to consort with convicted felons.

Some residents seem happy that Stewart is their neighbor and felt she has been adequately punished for lying about why she unloaded her stock in a pharmaceutical company just before the price plunged in December 2001.

"She served her time and she can come home," said Martha Brozski. "She's a businesswoman and she did what it took to get the job done. It's all moral and ethical! I don't know."

Brozski spoke outside the post office in the village of Bedford, a town Stewart kind of owns. The 324-year-old village of green is surrounded by white-painted or brick buildings, including a steeped Presbyterian church and a tack shop.

## PBS careful to remain decent

### Chief tries to safeguard stations from hefty fines

BY SIOBHAN McDONOUGH  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Worried about big fines from the government, the Public Broadcasting Service is carefully monitoring the content of its shows for profanity, nudity or anything that may be deemed indecent, the nonprofit network's chief says.

The Federal Communications Commission's standards on indecency that kicked in after the Janet Jackson breast-baring debacle have made broadcasters and producers nervous. Pat Mitchell said in an interview with The Associated Press this week.

Mitchell said PBS, which she is president and chief executive, seems to be under a higher level of scrutiny because it is partially financed by federal taxpayers. "We're very concerned about the regulations," she said. "They're not as clear as all of us in the media business would like them to be."

"We have to make assumptions, second-guess what is liable." That's exactly what PBS did recently with "A Company of Soldiers," a documentary on Iraq that contained foul language.

Besides offering a version of the film that had questionable parts bleeped out, the network sent out the raw version of stations that were willing to sign a waiver that acknowledged they were not being protected by the producer from FCC penalties.

"We were trying to protect stations from any liability," Mitchell said, adding that some stations could go bankrupt if a hefty fine

Mitchell, 62, discussed her decision to step down as PBS chief in June 2004, the network's financial challenges, her feelings about the "Buster" controversy and her goals during her final year in the job.

Securing sustainable funding on a national and local level, broadening public television's reach and resources in education and strengthening children's and news and public affairs programs top her agenda.

But achieving these and other goals hinges on the need for more money, Mitchell said.

"How do you continue in today's media environment, with everything being transformed by technology and new expectations?" she asked. "How do you continue to raise 80 percent of revenues just to keep doing what you're doing now?"

Finding new support is critical, and Mitchell's resolve is firm. "I'm completely passionate about a stronger and better resourced broadcasting service," she said. "I want this to be my legacy. That would be the best thing any leader can hope for — to leave an organization stronger than when you came in."

### Money problems at PBS

Challenges: The Public Broadcasting Service has seen cuts in corporate underwriting, while production and other costs have outpaced the small increases in government funding.

Funding: Less than 20 percent of PBS funding comes from Congress. The rest comes from fund-raising, corporate underwriting and station member dues. Recently, PBS established a foundation so that it could accept large donations.

From The Associated Press

was placed on them. "We agreed some stations would want to take the chance anyway." Next week, another documentary on Iraq which has some strong language will be offered to stations. They've been told that if they air "The Soldier's Heart," they need to do so after 10 p.m. A toned-down version will be offered as well.

In a wide-ranging interview,



Pat Mitchell, president of PBS television, said the network is carefully monitoring the content of its shows for anything that may be deemed indecent.

PBS operates on a \$319 million annual budget. Less than 20 percent of PBS funding comes from Congress. The rest comes from fund raising, corporate underwriting and station member dues.

Mitchell drew recent criticism for spending public money on a children's show, "Postcards from Buster," that featured a real-life lesbian couple in Vermont.

She said it was "regrettable" that there was so much emphasis on one half-hour out of the series' 40 episodes.

"It obscured all the good work of a very successful and important series."

## Group rejects bid to sell site of Hemingway suicide home

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — An environmental group that owns the former home of Ernest Hemingway has rejected an offer from neighbors to buy the property, setting up a legal fight.

The board of The Nature Conservancy's Idaho chapter voted Friday to move ahead with a plan to turn the 13-acre property near Sun Valley into a literary library and museum. The Nobel Prize-winning author fatally shot himself at the home in 1961.

Neighbors had agreed to pay market value for the property while the group fetch an estimated \$5 million — on the condition the house be moved.

Neighbors fear the nonprofit group's plans will disrupt the residential character of the upscale Ketchum community. They've threatened a lawsuit, claiming a private driveway leading to the residence should be off-limits to tourists.

Nature Conservancy spokesmen Matt Miller said the group's board members decided that uprooting the home would have been contrary to the wishes of Hemingway's fourth wife, Mary.



David Gibbs III, center, attorney for Bob and Mary Schindler, left, talks to reporters Friday afternoon outside the Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla., after a judge granted a three-week stay before Terri Schiavo's husband, Michael, can remove her feeding tube. Gibbs promised to begin another flurry of legal activity before the feeding tube can be removed.

AP



# Deadline set for Schiavo appeals

## Woman's family promises to fight after judge grants 3-week stay

By MITCH STACY

The Associated Press

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — Lawyers for the parents of Terri Schiavo promised to begin another flurry of legal activity next week after a judge said removal of the brain-damaged woman's feeding tube can take place in three weeks.

Circuit Judge George Greer ruled Friday that Terri Schiavo's husband, Michael, can stop her tube feedings on March 18 at 1 p.m., allowing him to carry out what he says were his wife's wishes not to be kept alive artificially.

The decision came on the 15th anniversary of Terri Schiavo's collapse, when a chemical imbalance caused her heart to temporarily stop beating and left her severely brain damaged.

In the meantime, the 41-year-old woman's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, are expected to ask an appeals court to block the order from taking effect and file numerous other motions to try to convince the courts to allow the feeding tube to remain.

The Schindlers and their son-in-law have fought each other in court since the late 1990s on whether Terri Schiavo should live or die. The two sides have battled through scores of opinions and rulings and tens of thousands of pages of filings.

The feud has taken on elements of a soap opera, with allegations that it began as a fight over more than \$1 million awarded to Terri Schiavo in a medical malpractice case that her husband stood to inherit.

Michael Schiavo has also been accused by his in-laws of having a conflict of interest in wanting his wife dead because he has started a new family with another woman.

The Schindlers do not believe their daughter is in a persistent vegetative state as court-appointed doctors have ruled.

But on Friday, Greer wrote he no longer wishes to grant delays in the long-running family feud, and that the case must end.

"The court is no longer comfortable granting stays simply upon the filings of new motions," Greer wrote. "There will always be 'new' issues."

Terri Schiavo's parents took the ruling as reason for hope.

"It's a relief, a temporary relief," Terri's father, Bob Schindler, told reporters outside the hospice where his daughter is cared for.

The judge made his decision after pleadings from the Schindlers that they need more time to appeal some legal issues, raise others and pursue additional medical tests that might prove their daughter has more mental capabilities than previously thought.

"We want to put forward the most aggressive defense we can of Terri Schiavo's life," Schindler attorney David Gibbs III said.

The Department of Children & Families also is seeking to intervene. Attorneys for the Schindlers said the agency wanted a 60-day stay to investigate allegations she is being mistreated by being denied appropriate medical care and rehabilitation. Previous similar charges have proved unfounded.

# Blacks' HIV rate doubles in a decade

By JEFF DONN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Blacks are contracting HIV at twice the rate they were in the late 1980s and early '90s, which researchers and AIDS prevention advocates attribute to drug addiction, poverty and poor access to health care, according to government statistics.

At the same time, the HIV infection rate among whites has held steady, causing alarm among some health officials who say the racial gap in the epidemic is widening.

Other troubling statistics indicate that almost half of all infected people in the United States may be receiving HIV drugs are not getting them.

"It's incredibly disappointing," said Terje Anderson, director of the National Association of People With AIDS. "We just have a burgeoning epidemic in the African American community that is not being dealt with effectively."

The findings, released at the 12th Annual Retrovirus Conference in Boston Friday, showed an increase in the HIV infection rate from 1 percent to 2 percent of blacks over a decade. White rates remained level at 0.2 percent, while the overall U.S. rate rose slightly from 0.3 percent to 0.4 percent.

The HIV rates were derived from the widely used National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, which analyze a representative sample of U.S. households and contain the most complete HIV data in the country. Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention compared 1988-1994 data with figures from 1999-2002.

However, health officials believe the numbers probably underestimate true HIV rates in the country because they don't take into account the prison population or the homeless.

"I think it's very concerning," said Dr. Susan Buchbinder, who leads HIV research for the city of San Francisco. "What we need to look at is how we can reduce those rates and get more people into treatment."

She recommended a stronger focus on treating drug addiction.

The lead CDC researcher, Geraldine McQuillan, said she was encouraged to see the HIV rate among younger blacks holding steady at just under 1.5 percent.

## 'No regrets' for Arnold

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has acknowledged using steroids during his years as a champion body builder, said he doesn't regret using the performance-enhancing drugs.

Schwarzenegger told ABC's George Stephanopoulos, "I have no regrets about it, because at that time, it was something new that came on the market, and we went to the doctor and it did under doctors' supervision."

Schwarzenegger has acknowledged taking steroids, but pointed out that they were legal at the time. "We were experimenting with it. It was a new thing. So you can't roll the clock back and say, 'Now I would change my mind on this,'" he said, according to an excerpt posted on [www.abcnews.com](http://www.abcnews.com).

The former seven-time Mr. Olympia said he would not encourage drug use because it sent the wrong message to children. But he said he had no problem with athletes taking nutritional supplements and other legal substances to improve their performance.

# Now playing at the movies: Beer, wine and Adam Sandler

By ELIZABETH ZUCKERMAN

The Associated Press

WESTERLY, R.I. — When Emily Steffian and Daniel Kamil moved from California with thoughts of opening their own movie theater, they wanted to show films that were off the beaten path, but didn't expect to be there themselves.

They envisioned setting up shop in Providence, near the colleges and the capital city's arts community. But the business climate in Providence seemed daunting, and a search for an appropriate and affordable property brought them to the seaside community of Westerly.

Somewhat to their surprise, the combination of small town and independent film-screening art house has worked.

The Revival House, Westerly's cinema pub, is one of a growing number of movie theaters that also serve food and alcohol, allowing patrons to combine their viewing and dining.

They're a concept that industry experts say is particularly popular in areas including the Pacific Northwest and Dallas-Fort Worth, but has only recently begun to take off in other places.

According to Jim Kozak, spokesman for the National Association of Theater Owners, the-

aters that serve food and alcohol have been around for years. But they have mostly shown second-run films, movies that run weeks or months after the initial theatrical release.

Now, they're getting more popular, and many are showing newer films. As of 1997, just 14 first-run theaters in the country served alcohol. Today, the figure is up to 270, said Kozak, whose organization counts among its members the owners of more than 29,000 of the roughly 36,000 to 37,000 screens in the nation.

He traces the trend to a theater-owner in Dallas who ran a second-run cinema pub and convinced a studio to include him in the initial release of the 1998 movie "The Waterboy."

The experiment was a success, and the film, a hit nationally, did well at the alcohol and food-serving venue.

"That opened the flood gate," Kozak said.

The earliest first-run cinema pubs tended to be outside major cities, in part because distributors wouldn't include theaters that served alcohol in initial releases if they had competition.

That's been changing, Kozak said. But in New England, most cinema pubs are located outside urban centers.

In California, where Kozak is based, he said



AP

Daniel Kamil, left, and Emily Steffian own the Revival House Cinema and Cafe in Westerly, R.I., which serves food and alcohol in addition to showing films.

few venues follow the theater pub model, and just one of those that do is a first-run theater. However, Kozak said, the theater, located in Hollywood, seems to be tremendous business. "There's a lot of consumer interest in being able to enjoy a cocktail while watching a movie," Kozak said.

At the Revival House, the model has included nontraditional film offerings, in addition to food and beverage service in a cafe-style theater.

"What we're doing is sort of an urban thing in a small town," Kamil said.





A part of a caisson from a bridge built across Lake Champlain by Continental Army soldiers in the late winter and early spring of 1777 sits in the preservation laboratory at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Ferrisburgh, Vt., on Feb. 15.

# History washes ashore in N.Y.

## Remnant of the Revolutionary War discovered near Fort Ticonderoga

BY WILSON RING  
The Associated Press

FERRISBURGH, Vt. — A bridge built across Lake Champlain by about 2,500 underfed and sick Continental Army soldiers in the late winter and early spring of 1777 was considered a marvel of 18th-century engineering.

Historians figure thousands of huge pine logs were skidded onto the ice in March and April, notched together like Lincoln logs, and then sunk with rocks through holes the soldiers cut in the ice.

By spring, 22 caissons, some up to 50 feet tall, reached the surface of the lake, where they were joined by a deck that allowed people to walk between Fort Ticonderoga in New York and Mount Independence in Orwell.

Now a piece of one of those caissons sits in the preservation laboratory at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, being made ready to give museum visitors a glimpse of the 228-year-old bridge.

"When you look at what they wanted to do, it connects you right to the American Revolution," said Maritime Museum Executive Director Art Cohn.

About 2,500 American troops used the 16-foot-wide bridge built on top of the caissons to flee the British army that was bearing down on Fort Ticonderoga in July 1777.

The British occupied the fort and later destroyed the bridge.

But many of those same colonial troops who fled Ticonderoga played a role in defeating the British in the Battle of Saratoga, one of the pivotal battles of the Revolutionary War, three months later.

The caissons the bridge rested on remain underwater. They are as deep enough so they don't interfere with boats on the lake, Cohn said.

The 26-foot beam is estimated to weigh between 1,500 and 1,800 pounds. It washed ashore last year near Fort Ticonderoga on the New York shore of Lake Champlain.

The beam was trucked to the Maritime Museum in December where it is being dried out and made ready for public display.

The size and condition of the beam mean it isn't as difficult to preserve as some other wooden artifacts pulled from Lake Champlain.

The original tree that was cut nearby in Vermont or New York is believed to be dense, white pine. Eighteenth century forests were full of such trees.

"It's certainly old growth," said Chris Sabie, the museum's director of conservation.

The cold lake water helped preserve the timber.

Once the preservation of the timber is complete it will be displayed at the Maritime Museum. Cohn said it will be returned to the museum at Fort Ticonderoga after a new visitor center is completed there.

# Hurricane recovery delayed in Fla.

BY BILL KACZOR  
The Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Chuck Johnson and his gold-en retriever, Molly, share a small camper parked in front of a concrete slab, all that remains of his hurricane-battered home.

The 56-year-old film technician is among thousands of Floridians still struggling to recover five months after the last of four hurricanes rampaged across the state.

Disputes with insurers and shortages of building materials, contractors and labor have delayed repairing or rebuilding many of Florida's 700,000 damaged dwellings.

Johnson, awaiting an insurance settlement, is unsure when, or even if, he will rebuild. He has thought about selling his lot and going elsewhere, but is torn because he loves the scenic lagoon just across the street from his lot.

"I'm like a tennis ball, just back and forth," Johnson says. "Sometimes I stay awake in bed. Your mind is like a blender."

Insurers have settled 90 percent of 1.6 million claims statewide from Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, which also killed 117 people in Florida when they hit in August and September.

But Johnson's is in the remaining 10 percent of property owners still waiting for his check.

Citizens Property Insurance, created by the state as an insurer of last resort, has been particularly slow paying claims because it had no adjusters on its payroll.

Citizens hired adjusting firms that also had contracts with national companies, which provide them year-round work while Citizens uses them only for hurricanes.

"They gave those companies service first," says state Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher. "They took the Citizens policyholders last."

Getting roofers and roofing materials has been difficult across the state, resulting in backlogs of up to seven months and price increases of about 25 percent, says Steve Munnell, executive director of the Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association.

Gov. Jeb Bush signed an executive order letting out-of-state contractors work without Florida licenses through mid-May, but they still must meet the state's insurance requirements and obtain local specialty licenses. Some jurisdictions have declined to issue such licenses.


The shingle crunch eased during the winter as manufacturers ramped up production and demand from cold-weather states dropped, but it still can take up to six weeks to get an order, Munnell says.

Those delays may get longer. The expiration of the governor's executive order and the return of warmer weather are expected to send contractors, workers and shingles back north.

"If they decide to go home, it could be a free-for-all for good quality skilled labor," says Pensacola contractor Dan Gilmore, president of the Florida Home Builders Association in Winter Park. Vieth, however, plans to get a Florida license and stay here because he expects several more months of work, possibly extending into 2006. "There's a tremendous amount of blue roofs still out there," Vieth says.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provided blue plastic tarps as a temporary fix until homeowners could get permanent roof repairs. They are designed to last only three to six months.

## CAREER CENTER



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# Students hope 'Cancer Stories' can help

BY MICHELLE SAXTON  
The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — In a stark, black-and-white photograph staring out from the book, Pam's eyes show the weight of her worry.

"Pam knew cancer long before she detected a lump," her story reads. "The disease has shaped and reshaped her family over the generations. Her mother died of ovarian cancer more than 10 years ago."

She also lost two paternal great-aunts and six maternal great-aunts to reproductive cancer. "It is a worst fear come true, a deadly legacy that seems to take out every female in its genetic path."

Pam, who is still battling breast cancer that has spread to her brain, is one of seven people chron-

icled in "Cancer Stories: Lessons in Love, Loss & Hope," a project by a group of journalism students from West Virginia University.

The book is being released this month by WVU Press but it has already drawn national media attention, and a student-produced documentary of the three-year-long project released last year won a regional Emmy.

Although much of that attention has been focused on the work as a product of student journalists, and the effect on them, the larger impact may be on the medical community. (Hence, the intended market for the \$40, 219-page book is physicians and caregivers.)

"These journalistic works will help offer physicians a primer on how to treat the 'whole patient,' who may be struggling with finances, family problems and emo-



**Cancer patient Pam Messinger receives chemotherapy at Mary Babb Randolph Cancer last month in Morgantown, W.Va. Messinger opened up her private life to West Virginia University journalism students for a book and documentary on the lives of cancer patients.**

tional stress, in addition to fighting a life-threatening disease," Dr. Eddie Reed, director of The Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Clinic where the patients were

treated, says in the book's flyleaf.

Jennifer Roush, who wrote Pam's story, puts it a bit more directly.

"They don't get to go home with

their patients. They don't get to sit at the dinner table with them. They don't see what the hospital doors," said Roush, now a features editor at the Times West Virginian in Fairmont.

Pam's story is typical of the others in the book, going beyond the medical scope of radiation treatment and surgeries to reveal how she lived with cancer at home, lost her hair and got sick, and how it affected her family, including her two children.

Pam said she took part in the project to help others down the road.

"It seems like a waste to suffer like this if I can't turn it around some way and make it easier for somebody else," she said.

Another struggle the book highlights is the one faced by patients in rural areas who contend with limited transportation, among other things.

## More nation stories on Page 18

Preservation consultant David Stroud screens dirt Feb. 2 outside one of three cabins on Ossabaw Island, Ga., that researchers say are the most important slave sites in the southeast.



## Researchers dig into history of slavery on Georgia island

BY RUSS BYNUM  
The Associated Press

OSSABAW ISLAND, Ga. — Sifting through dirt from the floor of a small cabin made from oyster shell and sand, archaeologist Dan Elliott is finding unexpected treasures.

He unearthed a doll-sized porcelain plate, clay marbles, lead shot and a French-made gunflint — fascinating finds from a cabin that once housed plantation slaves.

"We're dealing with the facts. These are all things they left behind," says Elliott, noting that toys and firearms' material "could suggest their masters were letting them have a little bit of latitude."

Researchers say three cabins made of tabby — a cement mixture of oyster shells, lime and sand — on this undeveloped, state-owned barrier island are among the best-preserved slave quarters in the South.

Now, 142 years after slavery ended, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the nonprofit Ossabaw Island Foundation are conducting the first ar-

chaeological digs here, hoping artifacts buried beneath the cabins will yield a better picture of how Southern slaves lived in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"It is easily one of the most important African-American slave sites in the Southeast," said Dave Crass, Georgia's state archaeologist. "Normally it's a big, white-columned plantation house that's still there. And the people who made the place work, their houses are long gone."

Since most records on slaves were kept by their owners, "you're seeing their world through white eyes," Crass said. "You need archaeology to put a face on these very abstract ideas about what slave life was like."

The first slaves arrived at Ossabaw Island in the 1760s, when Jim Mearl bought the island and established North End plantation to harvest live oaks for shipbuilding timber and to grow indigo and other cash crops.

Ironically, the three slave cabins survived not because they were left alone, but because they continued to be used as living quarters until the 1990s by staff of the state and the island's last private owners.

## Digging for relics

Archaeologists are searching for remains left by slaves who once worked plantations on Georgia's Ossabaw Island.



SOURCES: ESRI

AP

BY ROGER ALFORD  
The Associated Press Writer

PIKEVILLE, Ky. — They are pawing at porches, rooting through garbage and menacing pets. Enough black bears have been spotted in the hills of Appalachian Kentucky that some say it's time to start hunting them down again.

Outdoor enthusiasts say the move would be good for hunters and give the bears a fear of humans that would keep the animals away from homes.

"It would make them stay wild.

That's the philosophy behind it," said Ronnie Wells, president of the Kentucky League of Sportsmen. "They've been coming right down into people's porches and yards."

A century ago, bears thrived in Kentucky's mountain region, but over-hunting led to their disappearance.

Over the past 20 years, they have been venturing back through the forest of Virginia and West Virginia, once again giving eastern Kentucky a self-sustaining bear population.

But the bears have been butting up against residents. Homeowners shot at least two of the bears last year when they came too close to homes.

Terry Brock of Whitesburg was ordered to pay a \$250 fine for shooting an animal that was eating from his garbage cans and frightening his dogs and horse.

Brock said at his trial he was surprised to be charged with a

crime for killing the 270-pound bear. He said the animal refused to leave his back yard after he yelled and barked on the side of his mobile home.

Neighboring Virginia and West Virginia have had bear hunts for years, but Kentucky officials say it would be premature for them to restart one because they don't yet know how many black bears live in the state.

"Absent that information, it would be a little reckless at this point to push ahead with a hunting season," said Mark Marraccini, a spokesman for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Marraccini said a study is under way to determine the number of bears.

Wells, of the sportsmen league, said some chapters have drafted a resolution calling for a hunting season and planned to vote on it in June.

"I think we're a long ways from having a bear season," he said. "But I think it's time to take a serious look at whether we need it or not."

Debbie Sherman, principal of Victory Road Christian Academy in Cumberland, said bears occasionally wander across campus, raising some concern. The school, located near Kingdom Come State Park, put in a bear-proof trash bin so that the animals wouldn't be able to rummage through the garbage.

"We haven't even heard any so far this year," she said.

"But they're just now waking up."

**"I think we're a long ways from having a bear season. But I think it's time to take a serious look at whether we need it or not."**

**Ronnie Wells**  
President,  
Kentucky League of Sportsmen

## Trump's taller tower

**IL** CHICAGO — Donald Trump's plans for his condominium and hotel tower in downtown Chicago may get a little bit taller.

According to a city spokesperson, Trump and the city are in discussions over design plans that could make Trump's skyscraper slightly taller than Chicago's 1,450-foot Sears Tower.

## Comic (shop) heroes

**AZ** FLAGSTAFF — A man has recovered a comic book collection worth more than \$140,000 that was taken from his home in a burglary. The suspected burglars sold the collection, which included early issues of the "Amazing Spider-Man" and the "Fantastic Four," to a used bookstore for \$600. Store staff eventually helped police identify two suspects.

## Authorities kill tiger

**CA** MOORPARK — Authorities shot and killed a tiger Wednesday that had been roaming for days in the hills near the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

The cat was shot several hundred yards from school soccer and baseball fields at the edge of a housing development, said Lorna Bernard, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Fish and Game. Authorities still don't know who the owner is.

Federal wildlife service trackers had to shoot to kill because a tranquilizer would have taken several minutes to bring down the animal and the hunters or others could have been in danger.

## Girl convicted of murder

**FL** PENSACOLA — A 15-year-old girl was convicted of second-degree murder for slitting the throat of a longtime friend over a dispute about fireworks.

The jury deliberated for four hours before returning the verdict Tuesday against Christine Rogers in the 2003 death of 15-year-old Ashley Harvey. Rogers was tried as an adult and could face up to life in prison at a sentencing scheduled for March 23.

Harvey bled to death after being stabbed in the neck by Rogers.

Witnesses testified that the two girls fought because Rogers believed Harvey was shooting fireworks at one of her younger sisters.

## Road-kill candy ruckus

**NJ** TRENTON — Animal rights activists are disgusted by a new candy from Kraft Foods Inc. that's shaped like critters run over by cars — complete with tire tracks.

The fruit-flavored Trolli Road Kill Gummi Candy — in shapes of partly flattened snakes, chickens and squirrels — fosters cruelty toward animals, according to the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"It sends the wrong message to children, that it's OK to harm animals. And that's the wrong message, especially from a so-called

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

wholesome corporation like Kraft," said society spokesman Matthew Stanton.

The society is considering petition drives, boycotts and letter-writing campaigns to get the candy pulled from the market, Stanton said.

## Spelling bee controversy

**WY** CHEYENNE — A week after the outcome of the local spelling bee was challenged by one of the contestants, organizers have named two winners.

Zack Anderson and Jennifer Black, both 13, will receive first-place trophies, bee sponsor Cindy Sott said Wednesday.

Anderson originally won last week's bee and was given the first-place trophy when Black missed the word "phlebitis." Black spelled it with an "L."

But Black appealed to the judges, saying she spelled it wrong because the judges incorrectly told her the word's origin was Latin. She stopped the bee and showed the word came from New Latin.

After the judges looked up the word and saw Black was right, they resumed the spell-off, which Black eventually won.

## Vagabond emu returns

**WA** MOXEE — Emma is home again after nearly a year on the lam, and Diana Parker is one happy emu owner.



## Golden cargo

Armed Brink's guards Tyrone Woods, left, and Ismael Suren, right, unload one of two eight-foot Oscar statues from an armored truck at Gabriel's Bar and Restaurant in New York.

"I thought for sure she was gone," Parker said of her beloved bird, who hails from Australia and is related to the ostrich. "She would've been a lovely Sunday roast for somebody."

Parker, 60, said Emma vanished while she was away in March, about six months after she got the 3-year-old bird. She immediately alerted the Humane Society, Yakima County sheriff's office, property owners and workers in nearby hop fields.

After a week of fruitless searching, she gave up. To console her, a friend gave Parker two 3-week-old emus, Eddie and Baby.

Then, on Tuesday, both a neighborhood boy and a family friend saw Emma not far from her old stomping grounds.

## Breast implant death

**RI** TALLAHASSEE — An administrative law judge recommended Wednesday that a doctor lose his medical license because of mistakes involving a patient who died after getting breast implants.

Judge Susan B. Harrell found that Dr. Kurt Dangel gave improper care to Julie Rubenzer, 38, who stopped breathing temporarily during breast enlargement surgery in 2003. She suffered brain damage from lack of oxygen and died a few months later.

Among Dangel's mistakes was giving the woman a larger dose of anesthesia than she should have received, Harrell found. Dangel also asked untrained co-workers to try to find the woman's pulse when she stopped breathing and her heart stopped beating for a time, the judge found.

Dangel's case now goes before the Board of Medicine, which will decide whether to revoke his license, state Health Department spokeswoman Lindsay Hodges said.

## Alaskan eruption

**AK** A 5,029-foot volcano on Alaska's Atka Island erupted briefly this week, sending ash and steam to about 8,000 feet, according to the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

Two other restless volcanoes — Mount Spurr west of Anchorage and Mount Veniaminof on the Alaska Peninsula — remained relatively quiet, said Chris Waythomas, a scientist with the observatory.

Several Atka village residents reported seeing a burst Wednesday evening from Korovin Volcano that drifted east, followed by more steaming on Thursday morning, scientists said. But no ash fell on the village, home to about 90 people.

## Voters may need ID

**WI** MADISON — Wisconsin voters would have to show a state or military picture identification card before casting ballots under legislation the Assembly approved. The bill now goes to the Senate. Currently, people who already are registered must only give their name and address before voting. Republicans have been pushing for tougher laws after reports of possible voter fraud in Milwaukee.



## Pooch phobia

Teacher Marvia Reece, left, shows student Felix Montalvo, 11, an American Bulldog puppy at Edison Middle School in Miami. Reece's class was learning about the word "phobia." Cynophobia is the fear of dogs.



## Sibling squabble

Three Indo-Chinese tiger cubs playfully nip each other at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb.



## Snow arms race

Jillian Crabtree, 13, left, gathers snow to toss at Alix Davis, 13, during a snowstorm in Woodbridge, Va.





Gas and go

A vehicle drags a gasoline pump hose westbound on U.S. 50, just east of the Severn River Bridge near Annapolis, Md. An unmarked police car pulled the driver over.



A slight problem

A rescue worker helps to control an accident after a truck slid off the southbound lanes of Interstate 81 onto the northbound lanes in Martinsburg, W.Va.



And wait till you see how they floss them ... Kenneth Dunn, a building maintenance worker, cleans the tongue in the Dental Health Theatre before school groups arrived in St. Louis.

## Victim to get proceeds

**CO** DENVER — A 9-year-old girl will receive \$129,000 from the sale of the home of a man accused of sexually assaulting her two years ago.

The money will be put into a trust fund for the girl, who was 7 when she was assaulted, said District Attorney's Office spokeswoman Lynn Kimbrough.

Officials said the award was the largest so far to a single crime victim in Denver's property-confiscation program.

The house was seized as a public nuisance after 73-year-old Alfred Kaufman was convicted of attempted sexual assault. The girl had gone to his home to play with his cats.

## Screening out road jams

**MA** BOSTON — State highway officials have a new way-on to prevent traffic jams caused by motorists who slow down to look at car accidents.

The Massachusetts Highway Department has bought 27 sets of large, portable, vinyl screens, to use statewide. The goal is to keep drivers moving.

"It's a great tool for us to prevent congestion," state Highway Commissioner John Cogliano said. "It's been very effective in stopping rubbernecking during traffic incidents."

The 7-foot tall, 10-foot wide tarps attach to piping and are stored in emergency response vehicles. They were used Tuesday at the scene of a truck rollover on Interstate 93 in Somerville.

## Ku Klux Klan auction

**MI** HOWELL — A businessman who drew criticism from community and civil rights leaders for holding an auction of Ku Klux Klan items plans to hold another auction of similar materials, including a Klan robe.

Gary Gray of the Ole Gray Nash Auction House told WHMI-AM/FM that he will auction off nearly a dozen Klan-related items April 9.

A similar auction in January drew numerous protesters and spectators and brought in at least \$24,000, the auction house said.

Gray, 51, said publicity surrounding the first auction prompted many calls from people who had Klan-related items to sell, but who couldn't get them to him in time.

The NAACP branch in neighboring Oakland County and other civil rights groups have blasted the auctions as insensitive.

## Seized dogs in demand

**ME** AUGUSTA — Hundreds of people have contacted the Kennebec Valley Humane Society seeking to adopt the 72 dogs that were taken during the weekend from a kennel in Hudson where they were living in unsanitary conditions.

Roxanne Brann, executive director of the humane society, said she has received more than 300 adoption applications since the animals' plight was reported. The dogs were seized from Merle Knaughton's kennel after he called the Maine animal welfare program to say he could no longer care for the animals.

"We're not letting anyone see

them right now, but the day [the dogs] are available, we're going to have to turn some people away," Brann said.

Knaughton met with animal control officials on Friday, saying it was best if he got out of the kennel business because he could no longer care for the dogs by himself, said Norma Worley, director of the state's animal welfare program.

## Campaign aims to shame

**CA** OAKLAND — Buy sex from a hooker in Oakland and you may lose your car and see your picture placed on a billboard or bus shelter.

That's the warning city and police officials sounded this week as they initiated a new "shaming campaign" to crack down on prostitution.

The program will include surveillance cameras erected by merchants along busy International Boulevard, where residents say the blatant prostitution trade has hurt business. Videotapes of those soliciting prostitutes will be handed over to police and county prosecutors.

## Police torture case

**TN** KNOXVILLE — Two more former law officers pleaded guilty to beating and torturing a suspected drug dealer for two hours in his home last summer. Two others pleaded guilty earlier. All were employees of the Campbell County Sheriff's Office and have since been fired. They were accused of handcuffing and terrorizing Lester Eugene Siler, 42.

## Tempting locomotive

**NY** NEW YORK — A man who has been arrested repeatedly for pretending to be a transit worker pleaded guilty Thursday to trying to steal a locomotive, prosecutors said.

In June, Darius McCollum, 39, went into a Long Island Rail Road yard, posed as a safety consultant and asked how to operate a new type of engine that had just been delivered, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said in a news release.

McCollum later was found with stolen keys, including one used to operate the new locomotive, Brown said.

## Polygamous judge

**UT** ST. GEORGE — The Utah Judicial Conduct Commission has recommended that a judge be removed from the bench because he is a polygamist.

The order was reached after Judge Walter Steed and his attorney Rod Parker held a confidential meeting with commission members in January. It now goes directly to the Utah Supreme Court.

Steed, who has served as Justice Court judge in the polygamous border town of Hildale since 1980, is legally married to one woman and spiritually married to two other women, and has 32 children. He is a member of the reclusive Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which dominates Hildale and Colorado City, Ariz.

The hearing panel concluded that Steed violated his oath of office because he was breaking the law.

Stories and photos from wire services

## 77th Academy Awards

# The stars, the awards, the free stuff!

BY MARK CARO

Chicago Tribune

PARK CITY, Utah — DJ Qualls, best known as the skinny guy from "Road Trip," was nearing the end of his Sundance swag spree — an orgy of expensive goody accumulation that had left the young actor hamstrung over how he was supposed to transport his piles of free stuff home.

"Dude, it's insane," he said. "I was supposed to leave two days ago, but I've been too stressed about editing my collection."

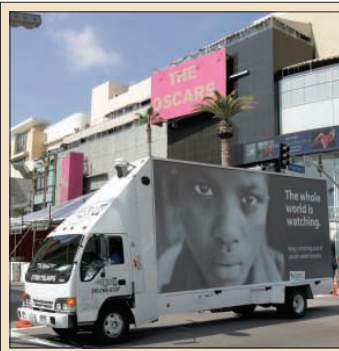
The 26-year-old Qualls, who appeared in the Sundance film "Hustle & Flow," was in the midst of a tour of the Levi's Ranch, where the jeans company and purveyors of Jans-Juan sunglasses, cosmetics and Xbox games were "gift[ing]" visiting celebrities.

Qualls collected several games, adding to a Sundance treasure trove that already included, by his accounting, a \$200 speaker system, a Lasik eye surgery gift certificate and a Dior coat lined with chinchilla.

"I've been doing nothing but this for three days," he said as he exited. "Seriously, it's sad. I'm a big of whore."

He's far from the only one. A huge, perverse industry has sprung up that's dedicated to giving complimentary goods to those who can most afford them: celebrities.

Presenters and performers at last week's Grammy Awards were given stuffbags (bags actually \$300 pieces of Lancel luggage) and backstage lounge giveaways worth an estimated \$34,000, including an iPod (the U2 edition), a Boston Acoustics CD stereo system, airline tickets, hotel packages, designer wear, various cosmetics and — drum roll, please — Trump Fragrance for Men.



An anti-smoking billboard rolls past the red carpet arrival area of the Kodak Theatre, site of Sunday's 77th Academy Awards, as preparations are underway in the theater complex on Thursday in Los Angeles. Los Angeles County's public health agency is paying for three mobile billboards that encourage filmmakers keep smoking out of their films.

The Oscar bag contents have yet to be announced, but last year's was touted to be worth about \$75,000. As with the Grammys, the gifts go to the show's presenters and performers, not the nominees or winners.

But Distinctive Assets, the company behind the Grammy freebies, also is putting together unofficial consolation-prize gift baskets for the non-winning Oscar nominees in the four acting categories plus best director and picture. Those packages are valued

at approximately \$38,000, including a \$22,000 Las Vegas weekend package.

Meanwhile, Sundance Film Festival, the country's premier showcase for the credit-card-stretching work of fledgling filmmakers, simultaneously has become a playground for the covetous and famous.

With no official Sundance sanction, with at least a dozen corporate-sponsored houses sprung up around Park City during last month's festival with the sole pur-

## Anti-smoking campaign eyes Hollywood on Oscar night

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Along with red carpet arrivals at Sunday night's Oscars, TV viewers worldwide may catch a glimpse of two billboard campaigns that chide Hollywood.

Los Angeles County's public health agency is paying for three mobile billboards demanding that filmmakers keep smoking out of their films. The billboards will be rolling near the Kodak Theatre, site of the 77th Academy Awards.

"The whole world is watching. Keep smoking out of youth-rated movies," read the billboards, which feature a child's face.

A Dartmouth Medical School study last year found that children who watch movies in which actors smoke heavily are three times more likely to smoke themselves than those exposed to less on-screen smoking.

Jonathan Fielding, county public health director, hopes the campaign will persuade the film industry to devote as much attention to tobacco use among children as it

has to other health issues, such as AIDS.

"There is a real opportunity for the industry to really make a difference in this terrible epidemic of tobacco use among youth," he said.

Besides the rolling anti-smoking message, a conservative group has bought billboard space near the Kodak Theatre that takes a jab at Hollywood's political left.

Alongside a smiling President Bush, the billboard read, "4 More Years. Thank You Hollywood!" and "W. Still President. Thank You Hollywood!" The billboards, which are sponsored by a group called Citizens United, also feature mug shots of Michael Moore, George Clooney, Barbara Streisand, Martin Sheen, Whoopi Goldberg, Sean Penn, Ben Affleck and Chevy Chase.

The mission of Citizens United, according to its Web site, is to "reassert the traditional American values of limited government, freedom of enterprise, strong families, and national sovereignty and security."

pose of getting brand names into the hands of celebrities.

To the companies involved, playing Santa Claus to the stars is justified as cutting-edge marketing. To the critics, it's no more than a ploy to land the pricey goods being lavished on rich celebrities, it's yet another sign of a screw loose in the universe.

Call it the InStyle Effect. Years ago, nobody knew what brand counterpart, TV or shower gel your favorite movie stars had in their lair.

That was before InStyle magazine demonstrated that a massive readership can be propelled from page to page with pretty pictures and brand names. Now countless magazines cater to the celebrities about their favorite lip glosses, video games and any other imaginable product.

With celebrities becoming de facto endorers of everything they wear, use or consume, companies are directing their energies toward a new kind of product placement.

# History of the Oscars: From bloc voting to ballyhoo

BY BOB THOMAS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — On the evening of May 16, 1929, some 300 film industry figures and their spouses gathered in the Blossom Room of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel to dine on squash and lobster and hear Douglas Fairbanks Sr. announce the first awards of the fledgling Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

There was scant press coverage and zero suspense. The winners had been disclosed two months before.

On Sunday, 3,300 people will pack the Kodak Theatre, one block east of the Roosevelt, to witness the 77th Academy Awards. ABC and hundreds of journalists will spread the news worldwide. Suspense will be high, the results known only to the ballot-toting accountants.

But the Oscars transform from Rotastyle achievement dinner to international extravaganza? Here's a look at the progress and pathos along Oscar's yellow brick road:

## Getting longer and longer

Fairbanks dispensed the statuettes in

1929 in 10 minutes. The ceremonies grew and grew, scoring a record 4 hours and 5 minutes in 1999. Part of the expansion is due to the increase in categories: 12 in 1929, 24 in 2005. Another reason: the thank-you factor. Early winners felt no need to thank everyone from their fitness coach to high school teacher.

## Chips off the old bloc

Walter Selzer, a publicist turned producer, recalls a meeting of the 60-member MGM publicity staff in 1939: "Our boss, Howard Strickling, announced that through the generosity of the studio, all of us as of now are members of the academy; he had enrolled everyone and paid the initiation fee. There was general jubilation and thanks, then he proceeded to tell us how we were to vote."

Bloc voting was a bugaboo for the academy during its first two decades. Bosses proclaimed that employees should vote for the home product for the good of their studios. Bloc voting ended in the 1950s with the decline of the studio system.

## The birth of ballyhoo

In 1955, "Marty," a \$289,000 no-star movie about a lovelorn butcher, played David to a quartet of Goliaths: "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing," "Mister Roberts," "Picnic" and "The Rose Tattoo."

Walter Selzer, publicity director for the company that made "Marty," and assistants Jerry Pan and Arthur Wills devised an ad campaign to call attention to their modest film. "We ran it differently every day in the trade papers," says Pan. "We did the precursor of the presenters' academy voters get now," recalls Selzer.

"We offered to send a print of the picture, a projector and a projectionist to the home of anyone who would invite 20 academy members to a screening." The campaign cost \$275,000, almost as much as the movie's budget, but a wise investment. "Marty" won four Oscars, including best picture, and encouraged other compa-

nies to campaign more vigorously for their Oscar hopefuls.

## Party time

For the first 15 years, the awards themselves were a party. The Hollywood elite gathered in hotel ballrooms to feast, drink, dance and applaud the winners. Such ostentation appeared unseemly during wartime, and from 1944 on, the ceremonies have been held in theaters. At first the parties afterward were casual affairs sponsored by studios. But in 1958, the academy began the Governors Ball, held after the awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Since the show took place downtown, ball attendees had to make a cross-town drive. "After a few years, we decided that the ball would be held at the same location as the awards," says academy executive director Bruce Davis.

Attendance at the ball has been challenged in recent years by lavish private parties held by Vanity Fair magazine, Elton John's AIDS benefit and others. "But everybody makes a stop at the Governors Ball," says academy spokesman John Pavlakis.

Bob Thomas has been covering the movie world for the AP for more than 60 years.





# Sunday Horoscope

The moon and Jupiter are in artist Libra, the sign of aesthetic genius. Cosmic Pisces energy emphasizes the inner resources needed to create. The novelist John Steinbeck, born on this day in 1902, said this about creativity: "Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and a pretty soon, you have a dozen."

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**February 27.** You believe in yourself this year, and others believe in you, too. In fact, you are being groomed for advancement over the next 10 weeks. Relocation is an option, but take it extremely carefully before making a move. In May, your confidence attracts passion. Big money follows an educated risk in July. Love signs are Taurus and Cancer.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Dropping some outmoded idea about who you are is lucky! Model your actions after the extremely well-mannered. It will widen your circle of friends and colleagues and get you invited to the places everyone wants to be.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You wake up with no plans, no agenda either mental or written, and no idea what the day will bring. Is this the recipe for adventure or disaster? Team up with a Sagittarius, and it's definitely the former.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your excellent taste guides others. Why is it your job to point out the glaringly obvious or inexcusably bad? Because it just is. So state your piece quickly, like someone pulling off a bandage, and move on.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You are supersensitive to all the many forces at work that affect you. When someone disrupts your manner or infringes on your rights, tell them in the moment what they are doing instead of storing up resentment.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're back to the feeling that you don't quite know yourself well enough to

move forward in life. A hint for self-knowledge: Your actions reflect your personal policy, which is either uncorrosive or conscious.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Get physical. Taking on a big clearing project has Zen benefits. It's remarkable what a little hard work can do for your body, soul and spirit. Your love life revs up as a result.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Everyone wants to feel secure — it's a basic human need. But in some area, you are using the idea of security as a weapon to suffocate your dream. Don't wait until things are perfect to move ahead.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The world responds kindly to your honesty and appreciates your lack of pretense. Because you're so open, you're physically a bit vulnerable now. Fight games by washing your hands often.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your social mores are challenged as you endure someone's bad dinner party or thoughtless comment. Rising above the situation will bring you the admiration of one who matters to you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're not alone in your pursuit, or at least you don't have to be. Family members want to help you, but you have to ask — and then inspire, cajole and cheer them on. With teamwork, you get the job done.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Sure, you're a dreamer. But shouldn't a family artist's goal include a crystal-clear image of what you want to be? Live in that image for a few hours, and you'll bring your dormant or struggling desire back to life.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Control issues come to the fore. You'll find yourself vexed by someone's inadequacy, but it would be the height of rudeness to correct your offender. Just be double sure that you are not a perpetrator of a similar offense.

Creators Syndicate

## 'Kid' older than you may think

Please tell me when, where, and how the term "kid" came to mean a child.

We can be pretty sure that the use of "kid" to refer to a child is an extended use of "kid" to mean the young of some animals. "Kid" is most familiar as the word for a young goat, but in fact it was foremost used in and in some cases can still be used for the young of various other related animals. The word is ultimately of Scandinavian origin.

The use of "kid" to mean "a child" is not at all a recent development. Its first known appearance in writing was in a 16th-century comedy called "The Old Law."

The Oxford English Dictionary states that "kid" in this sense was originally "low slang" but that it became established in more general use during the 19th century.

The "child" sense of "kid" first became common among the British, and the British have fully accepted it. It is, undoubtedly, an informal word, but that need not be seen as a disadvantage. "Kid" in this sense can be found in the works of many of America's finest writers: Robert Frost, Bernard Malamud, Frank O'Connor, and Mary McCarthy among others.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

# Military spouses are unsung heroes of combat deployments

**Dear Abby:** I am writing to tell you about some of the bravest, strongest, most resilient people I know — military spouses. So often people write you about problems, troubles or issues. Perhaps my letter will bring a smile to someone's face.

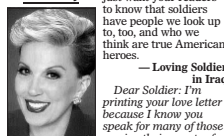
I am in the Army, currently deployed to Iraq. Here I have to worry about my soldiers and myself. There are great guys who make it easy for me, as they all act maturely and professionally. While I am away, my wife is back home worrying about me. She does all the chores around the house, cooks, takes care of our three sons, helps them with homework, holds down a full-time job, and still finds time to keep our children enrolled in whatever extra activities they can do.

She is now filling the roles of both mother and father. Her strength amazes me. Once she was away for 10 days to attend a wedding, and I had to take vacation time to keep up with the house and the kids. I'm not saying my wife walks on water — although she swims well — but a lot of people send messages over here to the soldiers saying, "Thank you for your service." I personally think

the unsung heroes are the ones who fill the shoes of the soldiers when they are deployed.

I have been gone for a year and can't wait to return home. I'm planning family time, Mom and Dad time, and I'm also going to let my wife have some time of her own. I just want your readers to know that soldiers have people we look up to, too, and who we think are true American heroes.

## Dear Abby



## — Loving Soldier in Iraq

*Dear Soldier: I'm printing your love letter because I know you speak from many of those serving their country far from home. I agree that it takes a special kind of person to be a military spouse, someone with strength, courage and self-reliance. Military spouses are, indeed, unsung heroes.*

**Dear Abby:** I am 18, good-looking, and in great shape, but I haven't had a girlfriend since 2000. I am pretty sure the reason I refuse to have sex until I am married. I am very religious. When I marry and devote myself to my wife, I want to be able to truly say she has all of me physically, emotionally and spiritually. I want to look her in the eye and tell her honestly that I saved myself just for her.

A lot of girls in college are just looking for sex, and that's not me. Granted, I do date — but after about two weeks, when they find out I don't want to have sex, they don't like that. It has been quite frustrating to the point that my parents asked me if I was gay, because I haven't brought home a steady girlfriend.

Does my girl's age want a nice guy? It doesn't seem that way. I'm considering changing my persona and becoming a hard-time partier and forgetting about my commitment to abstinence, because it seems that girls just want the "bad" boy. If you would respond to that, it would be great. God bless.

## — Alone in Arizona

*Dear Alone: Please don't give up or compromise your values. My dear departed Grandpa A.B. has a saying: "If you want to catch trout, don't go fishing in a herring barrel."*

*Since you want a girl with strong conservative values like your own — and they do exist — affiliate with a church-based youth group, or try an Internet Christian dating service. Many girls are praying to meet someone just like you, so don't give up.*

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can e-mail Abby at the internet at [http://www.usps.com/dearabby](mailto:http://www.usps.com/dearabby) Universal Press Syndicate

# Explaining religious conversions to parents may be touchy subject

**Dear Annie:** My wife and I were raised Christian, and growing up, we attended church off and on. We've been married for 10 years, and although we do not share the same faith, we have instilled our values and beliefs in our children.

Our daughter recently asked us what religion we are. My wife and I both looked at each other and said, "I don't know." We have had many discussions in the past about our beliefs and have come to the conclusion that we are not really "Christian." After much research, we discovered that we identify more with the Jewish faith. We have since contacted a rabbi and are talking about attending synagogue services.

We are not being irrational about this. We've talked about our beliefs for years. We just didn't realize that our religion felt right until our daughter asked us.

Our problem is, how do we explain this to our parents? I don't think they will understand our decision.

— Soon-to-Be California Jews

Dear California: Your parents

may never understand your decision, because religious belief and observance are intensely personal.

However, if you discuss with them the research you have done and the reasons behind your conversion, they might be able to accept it.

## Annie's Mailbox

*Keep in mind that your parents may see this not as a religious choice, but as a complete rejection of them and the way they raised you. Try to be sensitive to that possibility and reassure them that it was their values which led you in this direction, and that your newfound faith will not cause a rift.*

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I recently celebrated our 25th anniversary. I'm the eldest of five siblings and the only one still married to my original spouse. My siblings are all in their second or third marriages.

Each time one of my siblings remarried, my parents gave them a very generous monetary gift. However, for this big anniversary, they sent us only a greeting card.

We feel slighted. We are both

professionals, have no children and are comfortable financially, so money is not the issue. But they didn't offer to commemorate the day by taking us to dinner or doing anything special. Do we have to get divorced to get their attention?

I'm sure my parents have no idea how upset we are. Should we broach the subject or suffer in silence? We find ourselves avoiding them because of the hurt. What do you suggest?

## — Silver Anniversary

*Dear Silver: You should speak up, otherwise this snafu could turn into a large chasm. This has nothing to do with your siblings, for whom your parents would naturally want to give gifts when they marry. However, 25 years together is quite an accomplishment these days, and it would have been nice if the occasion had been marked with more celebration.*

*You cannot demand that your parents pay you a gift or take you to dinner. That is up to them. But you can let them know how you feel.*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Los Angeles-based Pictorial. E-mail your questions to [annie@mailbox@comcast.net](mailto:annie@mailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creative Associates, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## YOUR MONEY

# Change may increase troops' tax refund

By RICK EMERT  
Stars and Stripes

Some troops may get happier returns this year thanks to tax-credit options for servicemembers who were deployed to a combat zone in 2004.

The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 gives servicemembers the option of whether to include their nontaxable combat pay in figuring eligibility for the earned income tax credit, said Capt. Andrew Slitt, Wiesbaden (Germany) Tax Center officer in charge.

"This year, soldiers don't get penalized for their deployment income," Slitt said. "They can include it in their income or choose not to, whichever is more beneficial to them in figuring the

earned income credit."

The earned income credit primarily involves lower-income filers with children. The credit is based on income, with minimum and maximum income limits affecting how much of the credit a person earns. Soldiers may choose to add nontaxable combat pay to earn more of the credit, Slitt said.

Similarly, servicemembers can choose whether to include their nontaxable pay for computing the child-tax credit, which also has minimum and maximum income

**"This year, soldiers don't get penalized for their deployment income."**

Capt. Andrew Slitt  
Wiesbaden (Germany) Tax  
Center officer in charge

ware that the tax centers use it and it automatically figures out if it is better to include the combat pay or not.

Slitt gave the example of an E-5 from the 1st Armored Division who had spent two months down-

requirements.

The change affects only nontaxable pay for troops in a combat zone, and does not include nontaxable allowances, such as housing and food, according to the IRS Web site ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)).

Slitt added that the change is updated in the soft-

range. The soldier had \$23,000 of taxable wages and \$5,760 in combat pay.

The software tax office determined that the E-5's earned-income credit including the combat pay would be \$1,355. The credit was \$2,566 without the combat pay.

In the end, the soldier got a \$7,300 refund, Slitt said.

While the changes could increase the refund for a servicemember who was deployed to a combat zone, IRS tax-filing extensions ensure they won't be penalized for filing late.

Overseas civilians, servicemembers who were not deployed and other Americans not affiliated with the military have until June 15 to file their 2004 tax returns, Slitt said. However, if filers

owe taxes, they will pay interest beginning from April 15, he said.

Servicemembers who were deployed to a combat or hazardous-duty zone have 180 days from the date they return to file their taxes or from the date they leave the hospital if they were hospitalized from an injury in the combat zone, Slitt said. The extensions could lead to servicemembers filing two years of taxes this year, he said.

"If a soldier deployed in February 2003, he gets the extension from February to April 15 [2003], plus the 180 days at the end of the extension," he said. "We've had many soldiers coming in to file for 2003 and 2004 at the same time."

E-mail Rick Emert at: [emert@mailto:estripes.osd.mil](mailto:emert@mailto:estripes.osd.mil)

# For some, no purchase is too small for credit

By DINA ELBOGHADY  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON For years, Marcia Levi refused to accept either credit or debit cards for purchases under \$10 at her downtown gift shop, Chocolate Moose. Customers complained. She lowered the threshold to \$5. Customers still complained, so two years ago she gave up on any minimum.

"People come in and charge \$2.25 for a card or \$1.75 for jelly beans," said Levi, who co-owns Chocolate Moose with her sister Barbara. "It's annoying. In the past two years, they've just whipped out the card without thinking about it, no matter how small the purchase."

The persistence of her customers was no accident. Visa International, MasterCard Inc. and other card companies are working hard to make sure that no purchase is too small for plastic.

## A new niche

Faced with a saturated market where just about everyone who wants a credit card has one, the companies have set their sights on what by one estimate is the \$1.32 trillion in cash spent every year on purchases less than \$5. Emboldened by consumers willing to download songs at 99 cents a pop or cell phone ring tones at \$2 apiece, card companies are courting fast-food chains, taxi companies and parking-meter manufacturers that have traditionally accepted only cash. Even American Express Co., whose cards are associated with expense accounts and luxury purchases, teamed up with PepsiCo Inc. to roll out credit card-accepting vending machines last year, mostly in casinos, malls and convention centers.

To woo these merchants, at least the high-volume ones, card companies started lowering the fees they charge them. They also began making better use of technologies that speed up processing and have saved card users no longer have to sign for some purchases.

"Card companies tapped out the long-hanging fruit within the merchant community," said David Robertson, publisher of the New York Representative's card trade journal. "Now they're going after merchants that have been reluctant to accept credit and debit cards."



Barbara Perkins of Elite Marketing, left, helps Brandy McGough of Farmington, Ark., sign up for a new credit card, Wal-Mart Discover, in Fayetteville, Ark. In an effort to encourage credit card payments for transactions less than \$5, credit card companies are wooing merchants with low fees and speedier processing.

## All aboard

The push appears to be working. Credit and debit card payments under \$5 totaled \$13.5 billion last year, more than three times as much as they were in 2000, according to research firm CardWeb.com Inc.

Charges under \$10 climbed to \$3.5 billion, more than six times as much as in 2000.

Angela Keo of Silver Spring, Md., certainly does her part. On a recent visit to McDonald's, Keo used her debit card to buy a cheeseburger and a yogurt parfait. Later, she used it to buy a pack of cigarettes at one convenience store and a bottle of soda at another, she said.

"I don't carry any cash ever because it's easy to lose, very easy to spend and too hard to keep track of," said Keo, 22.

The mental "absolutely drives me nuts," Levi said. That's because each time shoppers like Keo swipe plastic at her store, Levi pays a hefty fee.

That swipe triggers an electronic exchange between the bank that issued the card and the merchant bank that processes it for the store.

As the banks work to authorize the purchase, they tap into a multibillion-dollar infrastructure. To help pay for that, banks assess retailers fixed and variable fees per credit card transaction.

Also factored into those fees are the risks card companies assume by guaranteeing payments to the merchants, even in cases of fraud.

Levi said she easily pays 55 cents in fees on a \$2.25 greeting card, depending on the brand of credit card used. That's more than half of her \$1 profit margin, she said. For debit cards, she pays a flat fee of 35 to 45 cents per transaction.

"It may not sound like much, but if you do that 100 to 200 times a day, that really eats into your profit margin," Levi said. Her best hope is that the larger purchases offset losses on the smaller ones.

Visa and MasterCard — joint ventures made up of thousands of banks that issue credit and debit cards — prohibit merchants from setting minimum payments. American Express, which issues its own credit cards, discourages minimums but allows them if the merchants apply the same limits to other cards they accept.

Card company executives recognize that the fee structure is a deal-breaker for many of the cash-based merchants they're pursuing.

"We know what the stumbling blocks are," said Carl Pascarella, president and chief executive of Visa U.S.A. Inc., which has the largest number of cards in use, at about \$58 million. But Pascarella said he's confident that Visa can overcome resistance from merchants, as it did when it first rolled out credit cards decades ago, and then debit cards, which gained popularity in the mid-'90s and helped spur card transactions for low-value items.

"This is something that is really in an embryonic stage," Pascarella said. "We have a lot of merchant education to do, and we have a lot of fine-tuning to do with our pricing."

## Fine-tuning begins

When Visa stopped requiring signatures for purchases of \$15 or less in 2003, it also relaxed the merchant fees it charged. As a result, Visa transactions at fast-food restaurants nearly doubled in dollar value between 2003 and 2004, Pascarella said. Sales of other small-ticket items jumped 25 percent, to \$6.5 billion, in the same period.

Meanwhile, even without signatures, fraud remains at an all-time low of 5 cents for every \$100 spent on Visa cards. The company's research shows that low-value purchases tend not to attract fraud. And even if they did, Visa guarantees its payments to merchants.

The guarantee is one of the benefits card companies highlight as they pitch their services to traditionally cash-averse retailers.

Another pitch: faster transactions. Swiping a card is faster than signing an Express Co. is phasing in similar wave-and-go Express Pay plastic devices at CVS Corp. stores nationwide. Though these cards were not designed for the largest small dollar amounts, they encourage them because customers with low-value purchases tend to be the ones who walk away most often from long lines at American Express.

Washington Post staff reporter Richard Drezzen contributed to this story.

## YOUR MONEY

## 401(k) not enough for highly paid worker

**Q:** I am one of those highly paid workers whose ability to contribute to a 401(k) is limited because not enough of the lower-paid employees at my company participate in the plan.

The good news is that my company will be implementing automatic enrollment for new and nonparticipating employees. The bad news is participation still won't be high enough to allow me to contribute the full \$14,000 this year to the plan. Is there anything else I can do now?

A: The rules that limit your contributions were put in place to prevent employers from favoring their executives and other highly compensated employees at the expense of the rank and file. "Highly compensated" typically means any employee who makes more than \$95,000 in 2005. The cap you face as a higher-paid employee depends on how many of your lower-paid colleagues contribute and how much they put in.

As you've heard, automatic enrollment can help boost participation among all workers and increase the amount that higher-paid workers can contribute. That's why about half of the companies Hewitt Associates recently surveyed said they were planning to institute automatic features in their plans, such as signing up employees as

soon as they start work or boosting contribution levels each year. Instead of waiting for workers to act, the plan would make the moves and require those who don't want to participate to opt out.

But automatic enrollment is not a cure-all. Most companies with automatic enrollment set the default contribution level at 3 percent, which is typically too low to eliminate the cap you face. (It's also too low to ensure the rank-and-file employees a decent retirement, but that's another subject.)

To boost your retirement kitty, you can contribute as much as \$4,000 a year to a Roth IRA for yourself and another \$4,000 a year for your spouse. That's assuming your income is below the Roth contribution limits of \$110,000 for singles and \$160,000 for married couples filing jointly. If your income exceeds the limit, you can contribute the same amounts to a nondeductible, traditional IRA.

Neither IRA gives you a tax break for your contributions, but the Roth allows you to withdraw your money tax-free in retirement, which is why it's the better choice if your income allows.

Beyond that, you could open a taxable

brokerage account and invest as much as you wanted. You won't get a deduction for your contributions, but you could qualify for lower capital-gains rates on your returns. By contrast, withdrawals from 401(k)s are taxed at higher income tax rates. You can limit your tax burden further by choosing index funds, which tend to generate lower tax bills, and municipal bond funds, which are usually tax-free.

**Q:** One of my credit card companies charged me a late fee that put my balance over the card's limit, and then it added an over-limit fee. When I refused to pay, it kept adding late and over-limit fees, then called repeatedly to harass me about payment.

**Weston** I've since hired an attorney to negotiate a \$150-a-month repayment plan, but I want the company to subtract all the fees it charged. Can my debt be reduced by that amount without the company reporting it as a settlement to the credit bureaus?

**A:** You can always try. Sometimes creditors and collection agencies are willing to report debts as "paid as agreed" or "paid in full," which is typically better for your credit score than having a debt reported as "settled." To get the most negotiating leverage,

age, you'll probably need to offer a substantial lump-sum amount rather than a continuing payment plan.

The difference in your score may be hard to notice, though, because you've done such a thorough job of trashing your credit. You may not have liked the company's policy on fees, but its practice of letting late fees trigger over-limit fees is pretty standard and was almost certainly disclosed to you in the fine print of the agreement you signed to get the card or in a follow-up disclosure included with your statement.

Your stubbornness about paying your bill turned what could have been a private matter between you and your credit card company over a \$29 fee into a more public dispute. Once you're more than 30 days overdue on a bill, lenders typically report your delinquency to the credit bureaus.

If you let this nonsense go on so long that the original account was charged off and turned over to a collection agency, then your credit may take years to recover.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via her Web site, [www.lizweston.com](http://www.lizweston.com). She regrets that she cannot respond personally to readers.

## FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES									
52-week		Low		Down		Up		Net	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
10,666.67	9,768.49	Dow Jones Industrials	10,841.66	+92.31	+8%	+5%	+2.43		
3,934.24	3,628.25	Dow Jones Transportation	3,941.66	+13.42	+3%	+1%	+0.21		
3,934.24	3,628.25	Average	3,941.66	+13.42	+3%	+1%	+0.21		
7,317.79	6,211.31	NYSE Composite	7,361.89	+76.63	+10%	+2%	+6.36		
2,191.60	1,758.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,219.67	+114.14	+5%	+1%	+11.17		
696.18	548.29	S&P MidCap	6,762.40	+137	+5%	+1%	+11.14		
696.18	548.29	S&P SmallCap	6,762.40	+137	+5%	+1%	+11.14		
10,251.36	10,245.31	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,373.45	+1,122.09	+11%	+5%	+8.81		

NYSE									
52-week		Low		Down		Up		Net	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
20,816.14	17,114.34	Smith Barney	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		

AMEX									
52-week		Low		Down		Up		Net	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
20,816.14	17,114.34	Smith Barney	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
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20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
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20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		

NASDAQ									
52-week		Low		Down		Up		Net	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
20,816.14	17,114.34	Smith Barney	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
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20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		
20,816.14	17,114.34	Investment	20,816.14	+3,701.80	+21%	+10%	+2.43		

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb '28)	\$1.3535
Dollar buys (Feb '28)	€7.788
British pound (Feb '28)	\$1.2797
Japanese yen (Feb '28)	\$1.00
South Korean (Feb '28)	\$62.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound (Feb '28)	1.2797
Canada (Dollar)	1.2397
France (Euro)	1.2397
Egypt (Pound)	5.8089
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3242/0.7552
Hungary (Forint)	183.69
India (Rupee)	66.666
Israel (Shekel)	4.3611
Japan (Yen)	105.21
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.2627/1
Norway (Krone)	6.4795
Philippines (Peso)	62.00
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6296
South Korea (Won)	62.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1631
Thailand (Baht)	52.00
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4045

Source: Reuters. Exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance or for the country of origin. Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

**Cents and Sensibility**  
Money tip of the day

## Scams target troops' kin

**MarketWatch**

**NEW YORK** — Many scams take advantage of recent emotional events or tragedies. Two new scams are preying upon relatives and friends of American servicemembers who have died

This one claims to be from a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official who wants your help in tracking down funds looted from the Iraqi Central Bank by one of Saddam Hussein's sons.

Both of the scams are perpetuated via e-mail, reports the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, part of the Department of Homeland Security. They entice the recipient to share personal and financial information.

The first is an e-mail supposedly from a "friend of a friend of the deceased soldier." The sender promises, on behalf of your family, to secure money that is owed to your deceased relative. Of course, the sender needs most of your personal and financial information to secure this money.

- Do not reply to any of these messages or click on any links contained within the message.
- Do not download or open any attachments contained within the message.
- Make sure the anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.

If you receive these e-mails,

A second scam is similar to the well-known "Nigeria scam," in which the sender asks for your help (and bank account number) to retrieve funds from that country in exchange for a share of the money.

## PRECIOUS METALS

<b>New York Merc close</b>	
<b>Gold</b>	\$434.90
<b>Silver</b>	\$7.291

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate .....	5.50
Discount rate .....	3.50
Federal funds market rate .....	2.5625
3-month bill .....	2.74
30-year bond .....	4.64

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Discover why  
so many people  
are saying... **THANKS FIRST COMMAND!**

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SBC





# OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### Overall spending unchanged The State, Columbia, S.C.

In Congress, a supplemental budget should be just that — an addition to the regular spending plans for unanticipated expenses...

The supplemental defense budget the White House rolled out this month features some truly unexpected costs, such as adding more armor and other protection for our troops and aiding tsunami-relief efforts. But it also includes some items that clearly should be in the regular budget: the costs of expanding the military and redeploying units, for example. It's part of an ongoing restructuring of our forces to meet the challenge of the war on terror, surely no one can pretend that it's a surprise. Why, then, is it not included in the regular defense costs?

This is an effort to fudge the overall budget numbers in the name of looking fiscally responsible. Its being done so that the president and Congress can brag about their spending cutbacks, when some of that money has just been moved onto a different balance sheet. We're still spending it. It's a time-honored trick of Washington accounting. But this shell game should fool no one.

### Influence far from authority (Denver) Rocky Mountain News

President Bush finally named the first director of national intelligence Feb. 17. The post was created Dec. 17 as part of the intelligence reform bill. The White House said the president took his time because he wanted to get the choice right. But he is known to have been turned down by three candidates, including former CIA Director Robert Gates, apparently over reservations about the actual powers of the job.

In the end, he picked John Negroponte, 65, a career diplomat who has served the Bush administration in two demanding posts, currently as the U.S. ambassador to Iraq and before that as ambassador to the United Nations when the United States was increasingly at odds with the Security Council over how to deal with Saddam Hussein.

The key question as he awaits Senate approval is: What kind of job is Negroponte getting? ...

Asked about the real power of the job, Bush replied that "people who control the money, people who have access to the president generally have a lot of influence." There is a real difference, as intelligence bureaucrats undoubtedly were quick to note, between influence and actual authority. It does appear that Negroponte will have much of the latter.

### Ex-presidents have their day Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

It seems appropriate that two former presidents spent Presidents Day working in behalf of tsunami victims in southern Asia. At the request of the current occupant of the White House, former Presidents Clinton and Bush have spent much of the last two months raising both public awareness and private dollars for the relief of countries devastated by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami.

They have done their jobs well. The tour, which took them to Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, won't keep high public interest on relief efforts. In fact, it's estimated that 1 in 3 American households has already contributed money to tsunami relief.

But what's amazing in this era of vicious political attack and counterattack is to see



these two men working together and, apparently, enjoying each other's company. Don't forget that they were bitter political rivals in 1992; indeed, the success of the Clinton campaign denied Bush a second term. And it is no secret that the current president saw his successful run in 2000 as a vindication of his father's loss to Clinton.

What's going on here? Both former presidents have spoken about the good-hearted nature of the American people as it relates to the tsunami, and they reflect that characteristic. Both were moved by the tragedy, which left at least 169,000 dead and tens of thousands with drastically altered lives. As former public servants, Bush and Clinton no doubt were pleased to be asked to serve again.

Maybe say might suggest that Clinton might see this as a way to parlay himself into leadership at the United Nations, and that "41" would do anything to help his son's standing in the international community.

Maybe so. But wouldn't it be wonderful if this was the start of something really big? Democrats and Republicans working together, respecting each other and really getting some productive work done? Honest folks disagreeing in the political arena but still willing to join hands for the common good? That's some relief we all could use.

### Thompson's impact not hazy Chicago Tribune

One of the great phenomena of the 2004 presidential campaign was the rise of "The Daily Show," a cable TV satire that exposes the hypocrisy of American politics with a mix of fact and fiction and steady laughs.

Brilliant, yes. Entirely new, no. Anyone who read the "gonzo" journalism of Hunter S. Thompson from the 1972 presidential campaign could recognize the original.

Thompson, who committed suicide at his Colorado home last Sunday, was his own best character. He thrust himself into events, be it a presidential campaign, a car race or a ride with the Hell's Angels.

Over the years, though, the character dissolved into caricature. Thompson's embrace of gambling, boozing, drugs, firearms and his utterly carefree personality drew more attention to him than his writing did. ...

Thompson was one of the original, brilliant practitioners of New Journalism, that crazy blend of the techniques of the reporter and the novelist that, at its best, found truths that standard journalism couldn't draw out.

Thompson, for a time, had a rightful place alongside Tom Wolfe, Truman Capote, Norman Mailer and other pioneers of the craft.

### U.S.-Europe chasm not erased The Record of Bergen County, N.J.

It will take more than a whirlwind European tour for President Bush to repair the damage he has caused to some of America's oldest and strongest alliances.

For sure, his cross-Atlantic visit is a good start. And his conciliatory speech to European leaders last week was a welcome change from his administration's previous snide rhetoric toward these important allies.

But now the president will have to back up his words with actions. A deep gulf remains between the United States and the European Union on some crucial issues, including America's refusal to do anything about global warming and its rejection of the International Criminal Court.

The United States is wrong on both counts. But it's unlikely to budge as long as the Bush administration is in charge.

So America and Europe must look for areas in which they can cooperate. One of the most promising is the effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### Bush the same, live or on tape The Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

President Bush has a right to feel betrayed by a friend who secretly tape-recorded private conversations with him as he contemplated a run for the White House in 1988.

Doug Wead, who has written a book about presidential childhoods, played the conversations to a reporter for The New York Times and his book editor. Fortunately for Bush, what he says confirms much of what he said during his 2000 presidential campaign.

He seemed to regret some of the decisions of his youth. "I wouldn't answer the marijuana questions," he said. "You know why? Because I don't want some little kid knowing what I was doing."

He wasn't worried about the corrupting influence of power. "I have got a great wife. And I read the Bible daily. The Bible is pretty good about keeping your eye in check." ...

In other words, the private George Bush sounds an awful lot like the public president. We know who he is, which will reassure his friends and maybe even his more vociferous critics.

### Coming clean on Vieques The Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.

More than 50 years of bombings and other training operations by the U.S. military on an island east of Puerto Rico couldn't help but leave environmental contamination in their wake. Former Puerto Rican Gov. Sila Calderon fought hard for the cleanup of the eastern portion of Vieques, plus the nearby island of Culebra.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency recently acknowledged the seriousness of the contamination, adding Vieques to its National Priorities List, also known as "Superfund" sites scheduled for cleanup.

Federal funds will pay to clean up a variety of dangerous chemicals listed by the EPA as possible contaminants on Vieques and in surrounding waters, including: napalm, TNT, depleted uranium, PCBs, solvents and mercury. Some of the same chemicals were discovered on Culebra, but the EPA hasn't finished its assessment.

The federal government has come a long way from confrontations with Vieques residents over live-ammunition drills. Placing the area on the Superfund list reflects a proper moral duty to both Puerto Ricans and the environment.

### Profanity helps paint picture Los Angeles Times

War is hell, unless the Federal Communications Commission has a say in the matter.

Then it is reduced to heck, as occurred during Tuesday's broadcast of a "Frontline" report about U.S. troops fighting in Iraq. Fearful of being hit with stiff FCC indecency fines, the nonprofit Public Broadcasting System distributed a censored copy of a report chronicling U.S. soldiers charged with keeping Iraq's main highway open. The crew of "Frontline" showed a small group of soldiers who did their best under tough conditions, and who reacted in entirely human ways when their lives were threatened by the enemy.

But some viewers ... saw the censored version of the report, which presented the remarkable figure of soldiers in battle TV, watching their language.

This country is awash in reality TV, except from the war front, where real-life portrayals are most needed. It's a shame that "Frontline" has become the latest casualty in an increasingly ugly culture war waged by conservative zealots eager to hijack the airwaves.





KEY: Sunny, Partly cloudy, Mostly cloudy, Cloudy, Showers, Tornadoes, Rain, Rain/snow, Snow, Cold front, Warm front, Trough, Jet, Low, High, Occluded, Stale front, Low High

## AFRICA

Capetown	81	63	Mogadishu	87	73
Dakar	81	64	Nairobi	87	55
Freeport	88	77	Rabat	60	43
Kinshasa	88	73	Tripoli	69	48

## THE WORLD

Amsterdam	49	22	Manila	88	72
Bahrain	71	54	Mexico City	69	51
Beijing	24	24	Montreal	21	05
Bombay	82	64	Norfolk	69	51
Buenos Aires	65	56	Rio de Jan	88	73
Buenos Aires	65	56	Sofia	32	16
Hankou	65	56	Sofia	32	16
Hong Kong	68	53	Sydney	74	66
London	51	35	Tokyo	47	37

## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	54	38	OKC	Colo	58	32	PC	Hamburg	56	25	PC
Alaska	54	38	PC	Colorado Springs	43	22	Ch	Hartford	56	25	PC
Alaska	54	38	PC	Colorado Springs	43	22	Ch	Houston	61	47	PC
Alaska	54	38	PC	Columbia, SC	55	48	Ch	Houston	61	47	PC
Alaska	54	38	PC	Columbia, SC	55	48	Ch	Houston	61	47	PC
Alaska	54	38	PC	Concord, NH	42	7	Ch	Houston	61	47	PC
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Alaska	54	38	PC	Concord, NH	42	7	Ch	Houston	61	47	PC
Alaska	54	38	PC								



# Match Play spits out the big seeds

## Woods, Mickelson, Singh sent packing

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — So much for that dream match between Vijay Singh and Tiger Woods. Their only contest in the Match Play Championship on Friday was who was the first to clean out their lockers.

Singh continued his dubious streak of never advancing beyond the second round.

Woods lost for the first time in 13 matches, his two-year reign ended by a little-known Aussie.

By the end of a long day at soggy La Costa Resort, they were joined at the check-out line by Phil Mickelson, the No. 3 seed and hottest player in golf who got knocked out in the third round.

As quickly as 1-2-3, the biggest stars disappeared in the Match Play Championship. "That's the beauty of this tournament," David Toms said after eliminating Mickelson.

"Phil and I were talking today, when he shot that low round at Spyglass (62), you get a big lead on the field. Here, you can do that in one match. And the next match, if you don't play well you're gone."

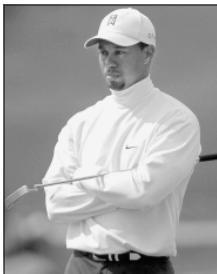
The highest seed remaining after a wild day at La Costa was U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, who rallied from 3 down with eight holes to play to beat hard-luck, worn-out Chad Campbell on the 19th hole.

No one had a longer day than Campbell, who played more holes Friday (43) than he did all week in the Nissan Open, an event in which he lost a one-hole playoff to Adam Scott in a tournament shortened to 36 holes by rain.

Only two of the top-10 seeds were left going into the quarterfinals.

The most shocking departure was Woods.

He had won 13 consecutive matches dur-



AP

**Two-time defending champion Tiger Woods, above, had his 13-match winning streak in the event halted Friday by under-aided Australian Nick O'Hern.**

ing his two-year reign in the Match Play Championship. He played Nick O'Hern, an unheralded Aussie who hasn't played in this event since he got in as the 39th alternate four years ago in Australia, the year none of the stars showed up.

Woods was no match. O'Hern hit most of the fairways, made all of his important putts and never trailed in a 3-and-1 victory, ending the match with a 3-iron from 200 yards out of the rough to 25 feet and holing the putt.

"If I play solidly, I have a good chance of beating anyone," O'Hern said. "Tiger missed a few putts, which helped me out. But that's golf. You take your chances."

O'Hern hardly suffered an emotional let-down. He promptly birdied his first two holes and easily beat Luke Donald of En-

gland, 5 and 4, to reach the quarterfinals against Ian Poulter of England.

Singh was the first big name out the door, and while it's always surprising when the No. 1 seed gets beaten, this one followed form.

Singh has never teed off in the third round of this event, and Jay Haas made sure that streak stayed intact with a 3-and-2 victory.

Mickelson was coming off two straight PGA Tour victories and never trailed in his first two matches, making four straight birdies early to whip Angel Cabrera in the second round.

Toms couldn't keep up with Lefty off the tee, but he kept it in the fairways and made enough medium-length birdie putts that Mickelson began to press, only to fall further behind. The match ended on the 16th hole.

When a lengthy day of two rounds in the muck at La Costa finally ended in the gloaming, it was hard to figure out who was the favorite for the \$1.3 million prize.

Robert Allenby saw no advantage that the top three seeds would be watching from home.

"That just says something right there in itself," Allenby said after holding off Kirk Triplett. "It doesn't matter who you play. Anyone in this field can win."

The other candidates:

■ Chris DiMarco, who dispatched John Daly in the morning, then never trailed against Haas to win, 2 and 1. DiMarco has played only his fellow Americans the first three rounds and gets another one Saturday morning in the quarterfinals. That would be Stewart Cink, who birdied the 18th hole and beat David Love III on the 20th hole.

■ Goosen outlasted Fred Couples in the morning, then rallied to beat Campbell with a 4-foot birdie putt on the 19th hole. Next up is Allenby, a dangerous player when his putts start falling.

■ Scott has looked the most impressive.

## Match Play Championship

**Friday's results**  
At La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad, Calif.  
(Seatings in Parentheses)  
**Third-Round Matches**  
DiMarco (16) def. Haas (33), 2 and 1.  
Cink (8) def. Love (9), 20 holes.  
Goosen (4) def. Campbell (20), 19 holes.  
Tolansky (44) def. Triplett (62), 2 and 1.  
O'Hern (31) def. Donald (18), 5 and 4.  
Poulter (62) def. Mickelson (3), 1 up.  
Toms (14) def. Mickelson (3), 4 and 3.  
Scott (11) def. Garcia (6), 4 and 1.  
**Second-Round Matches**  
Stewart Cink (8) def. Tom Lehman (40), 2 and 1.  
Davis Love III (9) def. Lee Westwood (24), 7 and 6.  
Rory Sabbatini (39) def. Padraig Harrington (7), 3 and 1.  
Ian Poulter (42) def. Stuart Appleby (10), 6 and 5.  
Jay Haas (33) def. Vijay Singh (1), 2 and 2.  
Chris DiMarco (16) def. John Daly (48), 4 and 3.  
Nick O'Hern (31) def. Tiger Woods (21), 3 and 1.  
Luke Donald (18) def. Kenny Perry (15), 1 up.  
Kirk Triplett (62) def. Craig Parry (37), 5 and 4.  
Robert Allenby (44) def. Graeme McDowell (53), 1 up.  
Sergio Garcia (6) def. Jerry Kelly (38), 19 holes.  
Adam Scott (11) def. David Howell (43), 2 and 1.  
Retief Goosen (4) def. Fred Couples (36), 1 up.  
Chad Campbell (20) def. Miguel Angel Jimenez (13), 24 holes.  
Phil Mickelson (3) def. Angel Cabrera (30), 4 and 3.  
David Toms (14) def. Mark Hensby (46), 2 up.  
**Saturday's pairings**  
**Quarterfinals**  
Chris DiMarco (16) vs. Stewart Cink (8)  
Retief Goosen (4) vs. Robert Allenby (44)  
Nick O'Hern (31) vs. Ian Poulter (62)  
David Toms (14) vs. Adam Scott (11)

He beat David Howell of England, then overwhelmed Sergio Garcia in a match of the best two players younger than 25. Scott won three straight holes to end the front nine, then never gave the Spaniard a chance in winning, 4 and 3. He faces Toms in the quarterfinals.

■ Poulter kept a European presence at La Costa. The Englishman won three of the last five holes and defeated Rory Sabbatini, 1 up, to reach the quarterfinals for the second straight year. He faces O'Hern, who is proving to be a dangerous player.

O'Hern had to make a 20-foot putt on the 19th hole to get past Charles Howell III in the opening round, and he has breezed through his next two matches, starting with Woods.

The lanky lefty jumped out to a 2-up lead with a 10-foot birdie on the second hole, and then Woods missed a 3-foot putt on the ninth hole — a sign of things to come for the two-time champ.

"I didn't make the putts," Woods said. "That's the difference between winning and losing a match."

# Rosales leads, Wie lurking in LPGA Tour's season opener

The Associated Press

KAHUKU, Hawaii — Michelle Wie shot a second straight 2-under-par 70 Friday and trails leader Jennifer Rosales by five strokes heading into the final round of the LPGA Tour's season-opening SBS Open.

The 15-year-old Wie, playing on her home island of Oahu, was tied for fifth at 4-under 140 and was one of the early starters who were forced to deal with intermittent showers and ocean winds



whipping up to 20 mph.

Wie is trying to supplant Marlene Hage as the youngest golfer to win an LPGA event. Hage was 18 when she won the 1952 Sarasota Open.

"In my first tournament, I was really nervous. I had no idea what to expect," Wie said. "The more

tournaments I play, the more I feel comfortable. I've grown a lot as a person and a golfer and I'm really proud of that."

Rosales, the first-round leader, had four bogeys and seven birdies in a wild round of 69 that moved her to 9-under 135. She managed to keep the lead with four birdies in the last five holes.

Wie's playing partner, Reiley Rankin, had a 66 and was second at 7-under 137.

Cristie Kerr (68) was three

strikes off the pace at 138, and LPGA veteran Rosie Jones shot a second-round 69 and was at 139.

**Calavechica leads halfway through Classic of Tucson**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Mark Calavechica made a 50-foot eagle putt on the next-to-last hole to vault over Billy Mayfair and into the lead of the Chrysler Classic of Tucson at 15-under 129.

Calavechica also had five birdies in a round of 65. Mayfair shot

67 and was atop the leader board most of the day.

**Mcknight ahead in washed out Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am**

LUTZ, Fla. — Tom McKnight birdied three straight holes before lightning and rain suspended play during the first round of the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am.

McKnight was 4-under through 13 holes. Don Reese also was 4-under through 13, and John Harris was 4-under through 11.

## TEN HUT! AT EASE.



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# Rice released by Seahawks

## Record-setting receiver wants to play next season

The Associated Press

Jerry Rice's incredible career might be over. The best receiver in NFL history was released Friday by the Seattle Seahawks. And while his agent, Jim Steiner, said he would seek to continue playing, finding a spot might be hard for a 42-year-old who has played 20 seasons in the NFL.

Rice was joined on the unemployment line by Ty Law, the star of New England's secondary through the first two of the Patriots' three Super Bowl victories, and Muhsin Muhammad, Carolina's standout wide receiver. The latter two were salary cap casualties as teams prepared for the start of free agency on Wednesday.

The 31-year-old Law missed the second half of this season with a broken foot and his \$12.5 million salary cap figure made him expendable, especially because the Patriots won a title without him. Muhammad, who made his first All-Pro team last season, had 93 catches for 1,405 yards and 16 touchdowns, but couldn't agree to renegotiate a contract that would have paid him a \$10 million roster bonus on March 1.

Cleveland, meanwhile, gave two disappointing former first-rounders, defensive tackle Gerard Warren and running back William Green, permission to seek to trade. The Browns also offered a new contract to injury-prone quarterback Kelly Holcomb.

Pittsburgh, the Browns' AFC North rival, released cornerback Chad Scott and tight end Jay Kiersma.

One player staying put is Marshall Faulk, who restructured his contract with the Rams.

Rice's release was announced in a short statement from the Seahawks, who acquired the 42-year-old from Oakland in a trade last season.

"We are grateful to Jerry and the role he was willing to fill for the Seahawks last year," coach Mike Holmgren said. "He is one of the greatest players in the history of our game and we wish him nothing but the best."

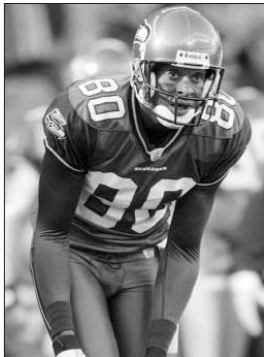
Rice is the career leader in receptions with 1,549, total yards with 22,895, and touchdowns receiving with 197, all far ahead of the closest pursuer. He also leads in total touchdowns with 207, 32 more than Emmitt Smith, who announced his retirement earlier this month.

Rice indicated after the season he still was interested in playing.

"I still feel like I have football left in me, a lot of football in me," he said.

But there is a team that might be interested in signing a 42-year-old who began his career with San Francisco in 1985 and was on three Super Bowl winners with the 49ers, winning the Super Bowl MVP in 1989?

"He's going to evaluate the landscape over the



**Jerry Rice, 42, the NFL career leader in receptions, total yards, touchdown catches and total touchdowns, said after the playoffs, "I still feel like I have football left in me, a lot of football in me."**

next several months," said his agent, Jim Steiner. "I think the fire still burns for him."

The releases of Muhammad and Law were not unexpected, although Muhammad, who will turn 32 in May, remains one of the league's best receivers.

Other than kicker John Kasay, he was the senior member of the team and holds its receiving records with 578 catches for 7,751 yards receiving. He played in 115 games with Carolina, joining the Panthers in 1996 as a second-round draft choice.

Law had been the anchor of the secondary since he was taken in the first round of the 1995 draft. But his huge salary made him expendable.

The Cleveland situation is part of a general housecleaning by new general manager Phil Savage and coach Romeo Crennel.

Warren, the third overall pick in the 2001 draft has been an underachiever throughout his NFL career. Green has been slowed by injuries and personal problems. He lost his starting job last season to Lee Suggs.

If Cleveland re-signs Holcomb, he might be used as a stand-in for a rookie. The Browns have the third overall pick in April's draft and Savage is evaluating Alex Smith of Utah, Aaron Rodgers of California and Charlie Frye of Akron, considered the top college quarterbacks available.

Faulk is resigned to backing up Steven Jackson with the Rams and has agreed to a pay cut that will essentially guarantee he'll end his career in St. Louis.

Faulk, an 11-year veteran who turns 32 Saturday, just finished the third year of a seven-year contract. He would have made \$6 million in salary and workout bonuses in 2005.

Under the new four-year deal, Faulk gets a \$2 million signing bonus and will earn \$2 million in both 2005 and 2006, said his agent, Rocky Arceneaux.

"His motive was not wanting to leave," Arceneaux said. "Obviously with a backup, it's hard to justify making \$7 million a year."

# Rodgers, Smith top deep QB draft class

By MICHAEL MAROT  
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — While Aaron Rodgers was busy winning games at California, he still kept track of Utah's Alex Smith.

Now the NFL is watching them face off.

The next challenge for the two quarterbacks, generally considered the top two at their position in the draft, comes Saturday in front of scouts in the NFL combine. The two will work side by side and the more impressive could find himself the first player selected in April.

The former California high school stars are ready to go at it.

"It's a trip," Smith said Friday. "It's something you dream about but you never really expect it to happen. I'm trying to enjoy it."

Both played minor roles early in college, spent the past two years building their resume and left school early to position themselves as first-round picks.

Even on the field they seemed to mirror each other.

"It's funny, his first start was the same day as my first start. His first big game was the same day as my first big game," Rodgers said. "I'm excited to go against him."

Smith and Rodgers aren't looking this week as much as a head-to-head showdown, though.

Their primary goal is to solidify themselves at the first round and stay ahead of an intriguing group of prospects including Hawaii's record-setting Timmy Chang, Auburn's Jason Campbell, who led the Tigers to an unbeaten season last year, and 2003 Heisman Trophy winner Jason White of Oklahoma. Add a small-school gem like Akron's Charlie Frye and the class seems deep.

"Quarterback is the key position," San Francisco coach Mike Nolan said. "I think every team will tell you that this is your go guy."

The tale of the tapes shows this: ■ Rodgers measured in at 6 feet 2, 223 pounds Friday. Smith was 6-4, 217 pounds.

■ Smith is the more elusive runner and will learn how to defend next season after playing in Utah's wide-open system the past two seasons.

■ Rodgers may possess the stronger arm, played in Cal's West Coast offense and was tutored by coach Jeff Tedford, who has helped develop quarterbacks such as Trent Dilfer and Kyle Boller.

The biggest question about Smith is how he will adapt from Utah's wide-open system, while others question whether Rodgers is tall enough.

"I actually prayed to God last night to give me a couple more inches," Rodgers joked. "But I don't really think that's a factor. A friend e-mailed me the other night that the average size of the Hall of Fame quarterbacks was 6-1, 200 pounds."

The other quarterbacks face even more scrutiny.

White hopes to break the trend of Heisman busts, but may not get much of a chance. The 2003 Heisman winner is 24, has two surgically-reconstructed knees and believes that three national championship games and four Big 12 titles won't mean much on draft day.

"That's college, it's over and done with," White said. "The other guys have more potential than me. All I want is an opportunity."

Chang finished his career as the NCAA's leader in yards passing, total offense and second in TD passes, came in at 6-2, 211 pounds and must demonstrate he's more than just a product of coach June Jones' run-and-shoot offense. Scouts wonder how he will fare in a more conservative system that includes fullbacks and tight ends.

"The timing thing is an adjustment," he said. "At Hawaii, it was three steps to the right, three steps to the left."

Campbell has a strong arm and good mobility but was helped greatly by two of the top running backs in this year's class — Carnell "Cadillac" Williams and Ronnie Brown. He measured a little less than 6-5 and 230 pounds.

Then there's Frye, who played in the Mid-American Conference that has recently produced NFL starters Chad Pennington, Byron Leftwich and Ben Roethlisberger. Frye is one of the rare highly touted quarterbacks who intends to work out in Indianapolis.

"They erased all those doubts about me," Frye said. "I am not that pretty high, too," Frye said — all three predecessors — all first-round picks.

# Woodson signs Raiders' tender

By JANIE MCCAULEY  
The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Charles Woodson signed a \$10.5 million tender Friday as the Oakland Raiders' franchise player, perhaps trying to force a trade.

By signing, Woodson puts the Raiders far over the salary cap.

"The actions of agent Carl Poston and Charles Woodson tell us that they must have reached a long-term deal with a team and we expect a trade very soon," the Raiders said in a statement.

Poston could not be reached for comment Friday, but may have determined that the Raiders planned to shop Woodson anyway and looked for a possible suitor himself.

Woodson, also the Raiders' franchise player last season, received the franchise tag Tuesday. He received a one-year contract worth \$10.5 million, a 20 percent raise over last year's salary of nearly \$8.5 million.

Woodson has said he wants to be the highest paid at his position, a distinction currently held by Denver's Champ Bailey.

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# Giants' owner sad Bonds' career viewed as tainted

The Associated Press

San Francisco Giants owner Peter Magowan realizes that Barry Bonds' accomplishments might not be regarded as highly because of the steroid scandal.

"It saddens me. I'm sure it saddens Barry," Magowan said Friday. "But I don't think it's going to affect his performance, or the performance of the team. We lived under this cloud all of last year, and we did fine under that kind of adversity. He did fine under that kind of adversity."

Magowan wasn't in town for Bonds' contentious session with the media Tuesday, but read about it while in Europe and wished his superstar had been less combative.

"I would have said some things maybe a little differently," Magowan said, during a quick visit to the team's spring training home in Scottsdale, Ariz. "But we have to remember this is a free country. People have a right to say what they think. I'm not the one under that kind of pressure and scrutiny that he was."

Bonds was defiant in his first public comments since his grand jury testimony was leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle and reported in December.

According to the Chronicle, Bonds testified to a grand jury in December 2003 that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in a steroid-distribution ring, but said he didn't know if they were steroids. Prosecutors believe the substances were two steroids at the center of the BALCO scandal.

The 40-year-old Bonds enters the season with 703 homers, trailing only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) on the career list.

## Spring training

In Fort Myers, Fla., Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling felt fine one day after throwing off a mound for the first time since his November ankle surgery.

Schilling, who had the torn sheath that surrounds his right ankle tendon repaired, threw 47 pitches on Thursday and is to throw off a mound again on Saturday. Manager Terry Francona said Schilling felt "no ill effects."

Pitcher Wade Miller, signed as a free agent during the offseason, threw 180-foot tosses for the second day in a row, putting him ahead of his manager's expectations. "He's pushing getting to the mound," Francona said. "I don't think any of us quite thought he'd be ready to do that yet."

In Vero Beach, Fla., Eric Gagne's sprained knee ligament didn't keep the Los Angeles Dodgers' closer from working out Friday.

Gagne hurt his left knee Thursday during the Dodgers' first full-squad workout of spring training. He was diagnosed afterward as having sustained a mild sprain, and an MRI exam Friday confirmed the diagnosis.

"It's better today," Gagne said following his workout on an elliptical machine and before the exam. "It's not sharp pain. I did about an hour of cardio today. I know it's not [serious]. I'm not a doctor, but I feel better today. I'm walking on it — no swelling."

In Tampa, Fla., Randy Johnson's scheduled batting practice session was pushed back one day to Saturday by the New York Yankees to line him up for his first spring training start next week.

Johnson slightly injured his left

calf earlier this week, which kept him out of some conditioning drills. Johnson said he could have thrown Friday.

"Age is starting to set in now ... they're giving me an extra day," the 41-year-old Johnson joked. "I could go out and do it today if they wanted to. Everything is fine. The calf is fine. As little as it is, not a whole lot of muscle to pull there."

Johnson is slated to start the Yankees' spring training opener against Pittsburgh on Thursday and the regular-season opener April 3 against Boston.

In Jupiter, Fla., St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Rick Ankiel threw to hitters for the first time in spring training. Ankiel survived a brief scare last fall when, while pitching in Puerto Rico, he felt a twinge of pain in the elbow and was sent home.

"It seems to be completely healed," Ankiel said. "No pain. I came home and took some medicine, took some time off, and eased back into it."

Ankiel arrived in 2004 at age 19 with a mid-90s fastball and a nasty curve. He won 11 games and averaged more than a strikeout per inning before epic wisdom and an elbow injury derailed his career for nearly three seasons.

Ankiel appeared in five late-season games last year and earned his first victory since early in the 2001 season.

In Mesa, Ariz., Kerry Wood will make his third straight Opening Day start for the Cubs, manager Dusty Baker said Friday.

The 27-year-old right-hander will be on the mound in Arizona against the Diamondbacks on April 4.

"We've got five guys, in my opinion, who could be opening-day starters," Wood said Fri-



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds moves a protective screen onto the field before doing some light throwing during spring training on Friday.

day. "Once you get 2-3 weeks into it with rainouts and days off, whatever, everybody's mixed up. It is an honor, though."

Wood, 8-9 with a 3.72 ERA last year, was on the disabled list from May 7 until July 11 because of a strained right triceps. For his career, the hard-thrower is 67-50 with a 3.63 ERA and 1,209 strikeouts in 1,943 innings pitched.

"It felt good, everything went well," Wood said after throwing live batting practice Friday. "I ended up throwing about 28 pitches. It's nice to see hitters."

In Winter Haven, Fla., Cleveland Indians manager Eric Wedge announced that left-hander C.C. Sabathia will start on Opening Day for the third straight season.

The Indians open against the White Sox on April 4 in Chicago.

"C.C. is our No. 1 guy," Wedge said.

"It's something he deserves. I believe he's going to have a very solid year."

Sabathia was the Opening Day starter in 2003 against Baltimore and last season against Minnesota. He pitched well in each start, but the Indians bullpen blew leads and lost both games in extra innings.

Sabathia was 11-10 with a 4.12 ERA in 30 starts last season.

Only 24 years old, Sabathia has a career record of 34-35.

He became the youngest active pitcher to reach 50 career wins last season and was named an All-Star for the second time.

# Officials reject 'vulgar' Jeter Center for Jimmy Fund

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Wait 'till next year, Jerry.

A New York Yankees fan whose \$3,235 bid won an eBay auction giving him the one-day naming rights to the FleetCenter in Boston wanted to call it the "Derek Jeter Center," after the Yankee shortstop and captain.

But instead, Manhattan lawyer Kerry Konrad agreed Friday to call it the "Jimmy Fund Center," after a Boston friend and Red Sox fan donated an additional \$6,275 to the charitable effort.

Boston real estate developer Jerry Rappaport Jr. offered to trump his buddy's bid. The total of \$8,600 is in recognition of 86 years of the English language in Boston, "Krezwick joined.

## MLB briefs

Konrad and Rappaport, both Harvard alumni, are scheduled to be at the "Jimmy Fund Center" on Tuesday to present their donation to the charity.

Konrad's original proposal was rejected by FleetCenter president and CEO Richard Krezwick. Arena officials have reserved the right to approve or reject any winning bid.

"All names have to be rated 'G'." We determined that Derek Jeter Center is an obscene and vulgar use of the English language in Boston," Krezwick joined.

The FleetCenter is home to the Boston Celtics and Boston Bru-

er Cancer Institute. It has been the official Red Sox charity since 1983.

The name became obsolete after Bank of America acquired FleetBoston Financial last year and the Charlotte, N.C., banking giant opted not to retain the naming rights.

While the arena's owner, Delaware North Cos., searches for a new long-term partner, it has been offering one-day naming rights on eBay and donating the proceeds to charity.

**LaRussa: McGwire shouldn't bother suing Canseco**

JUPITER, Fla. — St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa doesn't advise Mark McGwire to take legal action against Jose Canseco for accusations of steroid use in his book.

La Russa passed the bar in 1979, the year he got his first

major league managing job with the Chicago White Sox, but never has practiced law. But he said it would be a no-win situation for McGwire, who played for him in both Oakland and St. Louis.

"I vaguely remember law school, but I remember that when you start getting into libel and slander, that's one of the toughest proofs in the world," La Russa said Friday. "It is so difficult. ... The players can do whatever they want to, but you've got to think long and hard before you make that investment."

Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro has left open the possibility of taking legal action against Canseco, who claims he introduced the first baseman to steroids in 1992 when both players were with the Texas Rangers.

McGwire also has denied Canseco's charges.

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# Temple's Chaney is suspended for season

BY DAN GELSTON  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — John Chaney is paying a steep price for an irrational decision that could tarnish a 33-year Hall of Fame career.

Decades of goodwill by the Temple coach are close to being obscured after his premeditated plan of ordering rough play by one of his players backfired when a Saint Joseph's senior had his arm broken as a result.

Chaney has a history of outrageous conduct and comments — remember, he once threatened to kill then-Massachusetts coach John Calipari during a postgame news conference — but it was more often explained away as “John being John,” an intense and volatile competitor.

Not this time.  
Chaney was suspended for the rest of the regular season by Temple on Friday for putting in a foulwarmer, who proceeded to foul out in 4 minutes against Saint Joseph's and broke an opponent's arm.

“I think my behavior is reprehensible and, as I've said 1,000 times, I take responsibility,” Chaney said. “If it's the judgment of the school to suspend me, I can accept the responsibility of my actions.”

Chaney suspended himself for one game Wednesday and apologized for his actions. But after Saint Joseph's forward John Bryant was diagnosed with a broken arm that will likely end his season, the coach's self-imposed punishment was deemed insufficient.

Chaney will miss Temple's home game against Massachusetts on Saturday and road games against Rhode Island and La Salle, before returning for the Atlantic 10 tournament.

Chaney, 73, said he hasn't decided how the suspension will affect his decision whether to return for another season.



John Chaney

“I've had a reputation for many years, I've done many things wrong and made a lot of mistakes,” Chaney said. “My name is a lightning rod. Right now, I'll just take inventory of myself.”

Chaney, angered by what he thought were illegal screens by Saint Joseph's, inserted seldom-used, 6-foot-8, 250-pound Nehemiah Ingram against the Hawks on Tuesday to “send a message.” Ingram fouled Bryant hard, sending him sprawling to the floor.

Chaney warned during an Atlantic 10 conference call on Monday that he would send in a “goon” if the screens weren't called.

Bryant, a sixth man for the Hawks, has probably played his last college game.

Chaney said he called Bryant on Friday morning to apologize and also said he planned to talk to his parents. Chaney also offered to pay for Bryant's medical bills.

“I feel very contrite about John Bryant,” said Chaney, who has a 721-294 career record.

Saint Joseph's officials declined to comment and a Temple spokesman said no disciplinary action was taken against Ingram.

Temple did not say if Chaney would be paid during the suspension.

Chaney, who won a Division II title in 10 seasons at Cheyney State, took the Owls to 17 NCAA tournaments from 1984 to 1991.

Since then, the Owls (13-1, 9-4 Atlantic 10) have three straight NIT appearances and are headed to a fourth — unless they can win the conference tournament.

# Second-chance payoff

## Penders, his career reborn, makes Houston a winner

BY JOEL ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston coach Tom Penders has never had much of a problem winning on the basketball court. His most difficult challenges have seemed to come away from hardwood.

After a decade of unprecedented success at Texas, Penders was forced from his job seven years ago. He spent the next six years dealing with a heart ailment, battling lawsuits and coasting through three mediocre seasons at George Washington.

“I might have been dead because of all I was fighting at the time,” Penders said. “I was feeling it.”

Three years away from the game he liked made him itch for another rebuilding project in Texas, this time with former powerhouse Houston. And proving that some things never change, Penders is winning ahead of schedule at a school where no one thought it was possible about his heart.

The coach known as “Tournament Tom” at Texas is now “Turnaround Tom” at Houston. Entering the weekend, the Cougars (17-10, 7-5 Conference USA) had won as many games as in the previous two, and have an outside shot at their first NCAA tournament bid in 13 years.

Penders never doubted he would win again once he got another chance.

“People don't change. People know what I'm about,” he said. “I expected to win 20 games and get into the tournament. I didn't think that was unreasonable.”

Penders, 59, remains as brash as when he landed his first college coaching job at Tufts in 1968. He still has the suntan and trademark curly blond hair — it's a little more closely cropped these days — but is about 25 pounds lighter than he was at Texas.

After being diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, a congenital heart condition, Penders had a defibrillator implanted in his chest in 1997. He lost the extra weight during a self-imposed three-year hiatus from coaching.

He definitely needed the break. The sordid divorce from Texas started a chain of events that still wrenches Penders today.

“I think it really hurt time to see people turn their back on him,” said Penders' only son, Tommy Penders, a former Texas player. “He put so much into that program. He felt shortchanged.”

Penders' Longhorns won 208 games and made eight trips to the NCAA tournament, twice reaching the round of 16 and once advancing to a regional final. He signed a five-year extension in the 1997-98 season but had to miss the first two games after surgery to implant the defibrillator.

The Longhorns never recovered from an early slump, and Penders was forced to resign in 1998 after just his second losing season at Texas.

The move came amid accusations of team dissension and a lawsuit that accused Penders of being involved in the public release of a player's grades. The suit was settled when Texas agreed to pay \$7,500 in legal fees and admitted no wrongdoing.

Most hurtful to Penders, though, were the allegations of an alcohol problem and verbal abuse made during depositions for those cases.

“All that stuff at Texas was garbage,” he said. “They tried to create a controversy that didn't exist. I knew they were trying to get rid of me.”

To prove his point, Penders freely shares copies of the depositions and other legal documents. He keeps them in a small blue folder behind his desk, and he'll personally highlight portions of the papers that would seem to dispute the embarrassing accusations.

Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds, a frequent target of Penders' tirades during his final, bitter days in Austin, offered only appreciation for the impact Penders had on Texas' once-moribund program.

“I think Tom did a terrific job while he was here,” Dodds said. “He took our basketball program to the next level. That's all I have to say. I'm not going to respond in the way he did.”

Penders moved on to George Washington but re-



Tom Penders, who built a solid basketball program at Texas, is trying to do the same thing at Houston, a former powerhouse which has fallen on hard times.

signed in 2001 citing “burnout” following allegations of players making unauthorized long-distance calls and doctors' concerns about his heart.

“When he finished, I didn't want him to coach anymore,” said Tommy, now a coach at Angleton High School south of Houston. “I didn't think he enjoyed it as much as he used to.”

Penders spent three years as a broadcast analyst, relishing his newfound freedom and turning down a few job offers before Houston athletic director Dave Maggard called.

Houston no longer had the dominant program it enjoyed under coach Guy Lewis, who led Houston to five Final Fours over 30 years. Houston had only two winning records in the previous 11 seasons and hadn't been to the NCAA tournament since 1992.

“I told him that it's a bad job, a very bad job. But all the good jobs are taken,” Maggard said. “We really had to raise our expectations. That's one good thing that Tom has been able to do with the team.”

Penders said he believes he can convince a few of those top recruits to stay home, and rely on his connections in New York and with junior colleges to keep the program humming along.

“I contend a lot more people would prefer to live in an environment like this,” Penders said. “It's a short trip to anything you want. I've never been at a school that's as recruitable as this one.”

Penders has produced immediate results and already won over alumni and fans skeptical of the new coach, a one-time conference rival when at Texas.

“I went to every game and it was hard to sit there and pull for your team,” Lewis said. “There's just a different atmosphere around coach Penders. He just has a winning air about him.”

“From day one, he brought in this cockiness,” point guard Larry Smith said. “He's laid back and really sure of himself. It kind of filters on down from there.”

Penders has seemingly found a school that needed a change almost as much as he did. He's determined to make the most of this second chance.

“For me to come to a place like this at this point in my life is a godsend,” he said. “I feel like I'm in the summer of my life rather than the autumn.”

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# Siouxers suddenly contenders after trade

## Philadelphia hoping Webber will finally be the right fit with Iverson

BY DAN GELSTON  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — With one bold move to acquire Chris Webber, Philadelphia went from the fringe of the Eastern Conference playoffs to instant contenders.

No more worrying about a strong second scorer to complement Allen Iverson. No more wondering how the Sixers could compete with one of the most under-sized frontcourts around.

Forget winning the Atlantic Division. Webber has the Sixers thinking about making a run to the NBA Finals.

"We're trying to make a push now," veteran guard Aaron McKie said. "You don't want to sit back and just be comfortable with making the playoffs. With everything that went down, we're trying to make a statement."

Webber brought his 21.3 points, 9.7 rebounds and 5.5 assists from Sacramento to Philadelphia (26-28) in one of two trade deadline deals by Sixers President Billy King. The other one brought a three-point specialist Rodney Rogers to the Sixers for Glenn Robinson.

Webber did not practice with the Sixers on Friday and still needs to complete a physical. Still, he was expected to be in the lineup on Saturday night when the Sixers host, of all teams, the Kings.



The Philadelphia 76ers are hoping Chris Webber will ease the scoring burden on Allen Iverson, above.

Coach Jim O'Brien had a brief conversation with the five-time All-Star forward, and Webber said he was excited about playing with Iverson. The NBA's top scorer has always wanted a legitimate No. 2, but with little luck.

Robinson, the "Big Dog," was the latest in a long line who failed in that role.

Jerry Stackhouse didn't adjust; Tim Thomas and Larry Hughes didn't get much of a chance; Toni Kukoc underachieved; Matt Harpring never fit in; and Keith Van Horn faded in the postseason.

None of them had the résumé of Webber.

"Chris Webber is a cut above most power forwards in the league, offensively," O'Brien said.

O'Brien hoped Webber would ease some of the scoring burden of Iverson, who scored 60 points in a game this year. Iverson and Webber may be the best inside-outside duo in the league besides Miami's Shaquille O'Neal and Dwyane Wade.

"Now you're in a situation where Allen doesn't have to do everything off the dribble or be the guy that has ballhandling responsibilities probably 80 percent of the time," O'Brien said.

O'Brien said Webber could do for the Sixers what Rasheed Wallace did when he was traded in midseason to Detroit last year — deliver a title.

"But Rasheed was joining a team that had back-to-back 50-win seasons," O'Brien cautioned. "As for changing the balance of power in the East, I think that all remains to be seen."

The Sixers were under-sized in the frontcourt, with the 6-foot-7 Kenny Thomas and 6-7 Corliss Williamson often playing at the same time. Thomas and Williamson were sent with free agent

rust Brian Skinner to the Kings for Webber.

King made a steadfast commitment to keeping the young nucleus intact, notably Andre Iguodala, center Samuel Dalembert and forward Kyle Korver. With their age and Iverson's and Webber's salaries reaching the \$20 million range in a couple of years, this could be the Sixers' core roster for a while.

And it's one that's suddenly expected to win now.

"I thought we were a playoff team already," King said. "I thought we had a real good chance to win the Atlantic Division even without making a deal. But I think this deal gives us a better chance."

The biggest issue now could be easing Webber's fears about playing in Philly in front of their notoriously tough fans. Webber told the Sacramento Bee for Friday's edition that he initially had concerns about Philadelphia's demanding fans.

"I really worried about how the city's fans were going to accept me," he said, "but then about five minutes after the trade, (Allen Iverson) was on the phone with me, and that made me feel better."

If he'd been hearing the buzz over his arrival on talk radio and on the street, he wouldn't have to worry.

# FIFA to test ball with microchip beep in under-17 world

The Associated Press

CARDIFF, Wales — A soccer ball containing a microchip that beeps when it crosses the goal line will be tested at this year's under-17 world championship.

The International Football Association Board, which makes the rules for world soccer, agreed to the trial Saturday at its annual general meeting.

The microchip ball, which was produced by Adidas, was used in a game between Nuremberg and Nuremberg reserves on Wednesday in Germany.

The English Football Association also offered to experiment with the ball. However, the Premier League and Football League use balls made by rival manufacturers.

"Not a day goes by without technology making progress," FIFA President Sepp Blatter said. "We therefore have a duty to at least examine whether new technology could be used in football."

The under-17 world series set for Sept. 16-Oct. 2 in Peru. The technology most likely will not be ready for next year's World Cup in Germany.

Calls for new technology resurfaced in England after Tottenham was denied a clear goal at Manchester United on Jan. 4. Goalkeeper Roy Carroll dropped the ball behind the line, but the officials missed the call.

## Sports briefs

### Federer, Agassi win, set up Dubai semifinal

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Top-ranked Roger Federer and Andre Agassi beat Russian opponents in straight sets Saturday to set up a semifinal in the Dubai Open.

Federer, seeded first and the two-time defending champion, defeated Mikhail Yuzhnyh 6-3, 7-5 in a quarterfinal while fourth-seeded Agassi downed Nikolay Davydenko 6-4, 7-6 (4). Federer and Agassi were to meet later in the day for a spot in the title match.

In Saturday's other semifinal, big-serving Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia easily beat fifth-seeded Tommy Robredo of Spain 6-4, 6-3.

Federer won the first set in 36 minutes. Yuzhnyh, who won a career-high 42 matches in 2004, started the second with a break.

Federer broke back immediately and broke again in the 11th game.

Federer has beaten Agassi five straight times, including the Australian Open quarterfinals, after losing the first three. Agassi last won Federer in 2002.

### Sharapova wins Qatar title

DOHA, Qatar — Wimbledon

champion Maria Sharapova won her second WTA Tour title this month, rallying past Alicia Molik of Australia 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 Saturday in the Qatar Open final.

Sharapova, seeded second, captured her ninth career title. She won the Tokyo Open this month, then took two weeks off to recover from the flu.

Molik, seeded fourth, broke the third game for the first set and appeared in position for her second title of 2005 after winning in Sydney, Australia, last month.

### Raich wins giant slalom; Miller slides off course

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia — Benjamin Raich led a 1-2 Austrian finish Saturday in a giant slalom and drew closer to overall World Cup leader Bode Miller, who lost a ski during the second run and slid off the course.

Raich was followed by Hermann Maier and Kalle Palander of Finland. Daron Rahivovs of the United States was fifth.

"It's a big victory for me here," Raich said. "Bode went out, but you never hope the opposition will go out."

Miller lost a ski while in the lead at the first split of the final run, giving up valuable points in his bid to become the first American to win the overall title in 22 years. His lead over Raich has been cut to 91 points with seven races to go.

Raich covered the icy Podkoren course in a combined time of 2 minutes, 43.73 seconds. Maier, the reigning giant slalom world champion, was 0.45 seconds behind. Palander, the first-leg leader, was 0.79 seconds off the winning time.

Miller of Franconia, N.H., led by 0.32 seconds at the first interval before his right leg went wide on a turn and his ski became dislodged after slamming into a bump. He continued skiing down several gates then stopped at the side fence, looking at the sky in disarray and disbelief.

### Downhill victory gives Paerson wins in four disciplines

SAN SCARICIO, Italy — Sweden's Anja Paerson became the second female skier in history to win World Cup races in all four disciplines in a season with her first downhill victory Saturday.

Paerson, who increased her overall World Cup lead, was followed by Croatia's Janica Kostelic and Germany's Hilde Gerg.

Paerson began racing all four disciplines only last season, when she won the overall World Cup title.

"It's come so fast this year," she said. "It's maybe my biggest victory. Every race I've won is special, but when I look back on my career, one of the biggest things will be today."

Paerson had a winning time of

1 minute, 52.86 seconds, finishing 0.24 seconds ahead of Kostelic and 0.98 ahead of Gerg. The top North Americans were Canadian Emily Brydon (fifth) and Americans Lindsey Kildow (seventh) and Julia Mancuso (ninth).

Paerson matched the feat set by Austria's Petra Kronberger in 1990-91. Kronberger also won a combined race that season, giving her a fifth victory in an event combining downhill and slalom results.

Paerson will have a chance to win a combined Sunday in the final race this weekend on the course that will be used at next year's Turin Olympics. Paerson inaugurated the course by winning a World Cup super giant slalom on the first time on Friday.

### Soto defeats Reyes, set for IBF title bout

LAS VEGAS — Omar Soto of Mexico took a 12-round unanimous decision over former world champion Daniel Reyes of Colombia in their IBF mini-flyweight title elimination bout Friday night. The victory puts Soto in a title bout later this year against IBF champion Ramon Martinez of Panama.

The 25-year-old Soto (15-2-1 with 10 knockouts) won by scores of 118-110, 118-110, 115-113. The 31-year-old Reyes, the IBF mini-flyweight champion in 2003 and 2004, is 34-3-1 with 29 knockouts.

# Pacers defeat Cavaliers for first straight victory

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers were one of the few teams not to make a trip before Thursday's deadline. That suited coach Rick Carlisle just fine.

Over the past three weeks, the Pacers have proved they can win with their roster — even without the suspended Ron Artest.

Indiana won a season-high fifth straight game Friday night, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 87-78. Starting point guard Jamaal Tinsley missed the game with a bruised foot and center Jeff Foster sat with back spasms, but that still didn't stop the Pacers from winning for the eighth time in their last 10 games.

"If there was a trade that would have helped us, we would have made it," Carlisle said. "Coming into the deadline, we were down seven out of nine, so there was no need to panic."

"Larry Bird is not going to panic. He knows what we have, and we have a good team. It's just getting together now."

Stephen Jackson led Indiana with 28 points, including the team's last 11 in the fourth quarter. O'Neal added 20 points, eight rebounds and five assists for Indiana, which shot 52 percent.

"I am beginning to let the game come to me," Jackson said. "I want to go to work hard and score off my teammates' screens."

LeBron James had a tough night from the field, scoring 21 points on 9-for-25 shooting. Zdravitskiy added 20 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks for



## Roundup

Cleveland, which shot 36 percent and committed 15 turnovers.

"Our intensity just wasn't there," James said. "We have to play better. We have a tough stretch coming up, and if we don't get things right, we can lose four straight."

Indiana took control of the game in the second quarter, thanks in part to its reserves. Eddie Gill started a 12-0 run with a three-pointer, helping the Pacers open up a 47-33 lead.

Indiana's bench outscored the Cavaliers by themselves in the second quarter, 20-14. For the game, the Pacers' reserves held a 37-18 advantage over Cleveland's bench.

Cleveland cut the deficit to 52-39 with a 12-1 run in the second quarter, but the Pacers scored six of the final eight points of the half to take a 58-41 lead.

Indiana didn't let up in the third quarter, quickly extending its lead to 66-45 after O'Neal's basket. Cleveland gradually chipped away, getting within 76-61 after a three-point play by James with less than a minute left in the quarter.

The Cavaliers added two more baskets to start the fourth to trail 76-65, but that was as close as they would get. Jackson sealed the victory, scoring all 11 Pacers points in the last 10 minutes.

**Pistons 111, Lakers 90** At Los Angeles, Tayshawn Prince



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeRon James, right, is fouled by Indiana Pacers' James Jones during the second quarter in Indianapolis on Friday.

scored 26 points and Chauncey Billups added 23 to help Detroit extend its winning streak to six games.

Richard Hamilton had 18 points and eight assists and Rasheed Wallace had 19 points for the defending NBA champions, who won 11 of 12.

Kobe Bryant had 20 points and 11 assists for the Lakers, who came in riding a season-high three-game winning streak. With Detroit defenders tight on him the entire game, Bryant got off just 12 shots.

**Raptors 106, Bucks 102:** At Milwaukee, Chris Bosh had 27 points and eight rebounds to lead the Raptors.

Leading 98-94 with less than a minute to go, Toronto's Donyell Marshall missed a three-pointer. But Bosh grabbed the rebound and found Morris Peterson for a dunk and a 100-94 lead.

Bosh went 8-for-14 from the field and 11-for-12 from the line. The Raptors are 13-4 when he scores at least 20 points and 10-8 when he doesn't.

**Bulls 97, Wizards 90:** At Chi-

cago, Kirk Hinrich scored 26 points and rookie Ben Gordon added 20 to lead the Bulls.

Othella Harrington added 12 points and rookie Chris Duhan had 11 points and eight assists for Chicago, which moved a season-high four games over .500.

Gilbert Arenas had 36 points for Washington, giving the All-Star 30 or more points for the 12th time in 17 games.

**SuperSonics 98, Timberwolves 88:** At Seattle, Ray Allen scored 24 of his 32 points after halftime, and the SuperSonics rallied from a 14-point second-half deficit.

Vladimir Radmanovic added 17 points for the Sonics, who extended their lead over the Timberwolves in the Northwest Division to 12½ games.

**Trail Blazers 102, Hawks 101:** At Portland, Zach Randolph had 31 points and 12 rebounds, including a go-head run in the lane with 9 seconds left. At Harrison had 25 points for the Hawks, who dropped their 18th straight road game.

**Nuggets 97, Grizzlies 94 (OT):** At Memphis, Denver's Earl Boykins scored 19 points, including two free throws with 101 seconds left. The Nuggets shot 54 percent, but hit 44 of 52 foul shots.

**Nets 93, Bobcats 86:** At East Rutherford, N.J., Nenad Krstic returned to the lineup after missing two games with a viral infection and scored a career-high 25 points. Vince Carter added 28 points and Jason Kidd had 11 points, nine assists and eight rebounds. The Nets snapped a two-game losing streak.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	18	.611	0
Philadelphia	26	28	.481	1
New York	24	29	.452	2
Toronto	23	31	.430	3
New Jersey	14	44	.241	16

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	21	27	.438	0
Washington	21	27	.438	0
Orlando	19	29	.396	2
Charlotte	11	41	.212	7
Atlanta	14	28	.333	5

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	19	29	.396	0
Cleveland	21	27	.438	0
Chicago	28	23	.549	0
Memphis	22	21	.510	1

Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	42	17	.708	0
Phoenix	39	20	.661	3
Houston	33	26	.561	8
Portland	31	28	.520	10
New Orleans	11	43	.204	31

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	25	21	.543	0
Minnesota	27	19	.587	0
Denver	29	17	.628	0
Portland	22	24	.478	4
Oklahoma City	15	31	.326	10

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	33	16	.673	0
Sacramento	31	18	.633	0
Los Angeles	29	20	.592	2
LA Clippers	24	25	.488	7
Golden State	16	33	.327	16

Friday's games				
New Jersey 97, Cleveland 83	OT			
Denver 57, Memphis 94	OT			
Chicago 97, Charlotte 83				
Toronto 106, Milwaukee 102				
Boston 97, Washington 90				
Portland 102, Atlanta 101				
Detroit 111, LA Lakers 90				
Seattle 98, Minnesota 88				

Saturday's games				
Orlando at Atlanta				
Chicago at Charlotte				
Indiana at New York				
San Antonio at Philadelphia				
Memphis at San Antonio				
Phoenix at Dallas				
Sunday's games				
LA Lakers at New York				
Cleveland at New Jersey				

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle at Milwaukee				
Utah at Houston				
Denver at New Orleans				
Miami at Orlando				
Boston at Phoenix				
Minnesota at Portland				
LA Lakers at LA Clippers				

Monday's games				
LA Lakers at New York				
LA Lakers at Dallas				
LA Lakers at LA Clippers				

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**Supersonics 98, I-wolves 88**

**MINNESOTA** — Garnett 10-19 11-13 3  
Sprewell 4-10 5-6 13, Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Has-  
sell 0-1 1-2 1, Hudson 4-10 0-0 9, Szczecbia-  
5-11 2-2 14, Thomas 1-1 0-0 2, Cassell 3-6 1-  
7, Holberg 3-5 0-0 8, Madsen 0-0 1-2 1, Carter  
0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-65 21-27 88.

**SEATTLE** — Evans 0-2 0-0 0, Lewis 4-1-  
7-10 16, James 4-7 0-0 8, Allen 10-22 8-9 32

## SPORTS



Giants owner doesn't believe steroid scandal will affect Bonds' performance, Page 28

# Good to be back

## Walker leads Celtics over Jazz in return to team

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Antoine Walker could hardly wait to be a Boston Celtic again.

Walker was in Portland with the Atlanta Hawks when he learned he had been traded back to his former team. He got on the first flight to Salt Lake City and played Friday night without practicing with his new teammates.

Walker knew few of the plays and looked lost at times on offense, but still had 24 points and 10 rebounds to help the Celtics outlast the Utah Jazz 109-102.

"It's great to be back," Walker said. "I am excited about the opportunity to be back and make this work."

Walker quickly resumed his old job as Boston's offensive leader on the court and led the cheers when he was on the bench.

"Doc [Rivers] made it easy for me," Walker said. "He told the team we were going to stay away from a lot of sets and keep it simple."

That meant just give the ball to Walker on the left block and let him go to work.

"Toine was great," Rivers said.

"You know what's nice with Toine is we had somewhere to go in the post."

Ricky Davis dunked to stretch Boston's lead to 103-95 with 3:07 to play, but the Celtics had to survive a rally. Keith McLeod made a three-pointer and added a layup with 36 seconds remaining to get the Jazz within 103-102 before Davis and Mark Blount made six straight free throws to break the Celtics' three-game road skid.

"It was an amazing win for us. I'm happy for everyone and Mark made two huge free throws down the stretch," Rivers said.

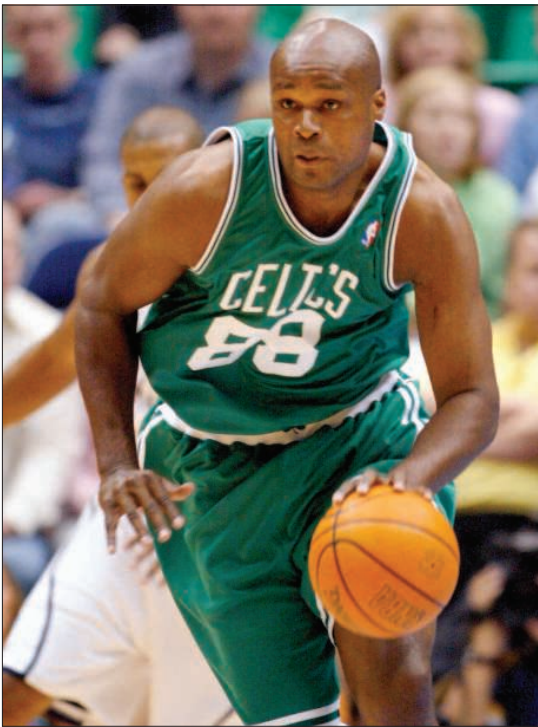
Davis scored 16 of his 17 points in the second half and Delonte West followed his career high of 17 at Denver on Wednesday with 16 points and seven rebounds to help the Celtics overcome Paul Pierce's foul trouble.

But the key was Walker and the new options he brought to an often stagnant Celtics offense.

"Toine carried us tonight, offensively," said Pierce, who scored 15 points in 25 minutes. "Being that I was in foul trouble all game, that's what we needed. That's why we traded for him."

Walker played his first seven seasons in Boston and paired with Pierce to lead the team to the 2002 Eastern Conference finals.

Boston got him back Thursday in exchange for Gary Payton. Tom Gugliotta, Michael Stewart and a future first-round draft pick.



Boston Celtics forward Antoine Walker heads down the court during the first quarter against the Utah Jazz on Friday night in Salt Lake City. It was Walker's first game with the Celtics since being traded back to the team by the Atlanta Hawks on Thursday. Walker had 24 points and 10 rebounds in the Celtics' 109-102 victory.

"He sure seems glad to be back in the green," West said. "He came up big for us. We thought he had mismatches down low and he exploited them."

Andreï Kirilenko scored a season-high 29 points and Matt Harpring added 18 for the Jazz, who have lost six of their past seven games.

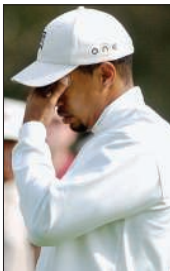
"We just seem to find ways to lose games. It's real frustrating,"

said Raja Bell.

Harpring's jumper gave the Jazz a 79-72 lead late in the third quarter before the Celtics took advantage of a flurry of Jazz errors. Marcus Banks hit two three-pointers to power a 20-3 Boston run that was capped by West's three to beat the shot clock. The Jazz committed five turnovers and missed three free throws during the spurt, which lifted the Celtics

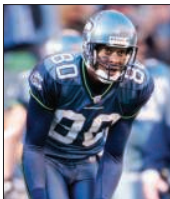
to a 92-82 lead with 8:12 to play. "We just didn't get stops. We had the lead and then they got easy buckets," McLeod said.

The Celtics, who conclude a four-game road trip at Phoenix on Monday, shot 53 percent from the field to move one full game ahead of second-place Philadelphia in the Atlantic Division. Walker will play his first game in Boston on Wednesday night against the Lakers.



Woods, Singh, Mickelson knocked out of Match Play

Page 26



Rice's stellar career could be over after being cut by Seahawks

Page 27



Temple coach Chaney suspended for remainder of regular season

Page 29